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No. 55

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 8, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LOIS CAPPS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, our Defense and our Liberator, throughout our history as Americans, and even in our individual lives, You have come to our aid and strengthened us in the face of all our struggles against evil. Be with us now and always.

The prophet Daniel offers a distinction. He said he saw You in the very beginning "when the evil horn spoke arrogant words until the beast was slain and its body thrown into the fire. But there were other beasts, too, which also lost their dominion but were granted a prolongation of life for a time and a season."

Lord, we believe You always deliver us from evil. Yet each of us can name "the other beasts" described by Daniel in our history as a nation and in our personal lives. They may no longer have dominion to completely overcome us, but we know they can be granted "a prolongation of life for a time."

Therefore, Lord, we plead for Your help to persevere for the time being. Sometimes in the fight we personally need to undergo treatment or continue therapy. For a nation, it may take time to reform, rebuild, or reconcile, so continue, Lord, to uphold us until evil is brought to its end. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

DO NOT SELL OUT THE TROOPS AND LOSE A WINNABLE WAR

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today is a serious day on Capitol Hill. General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker have returned. They are reporting to the Nation on the progress in Iraq.

Since they were last here, this is what the Iraqi Parliament has passed: A pension law for regime officials; de-Baathification reform; an amnesty law; a provincial election law. The national government is sharing oil revenues with the provinces; sectarian killings are down 90 percent; civilian deaths have dropped by more than 70 percent; and coalition casualties have dropped by more than 70 percent. Most importantly, Iraqi security forces are fighting for the future of their very own country.

Some in this House are so invested in the narrative of defeat that they are blind to the results of a campaign that ranks among the greatest in the history of our Armed Forces.

Our troops have achieved tremendous success through valor and sacrifice. Let's not sell them out and choose to lose a winnable war. History would not forgive us for that.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H2017

HONORING THE INDEPENDENCE OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina on their 16th anniversary of independence.

It is an honor for me to represent the largest Bosnian-American population in the United States, as well as cochair the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Bosnia with Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey. Our Bosnian-American neighbors who have come to St. Louis and the other parts of the U.S. have contributed a great deal to our country.

I am proud that on April 7, 1992, the United States was one of the first nations to recognize the newly independent Bosnia-Herzegovina. As we honor the anniversary of their independence today, let us reaffirm our support for Bosnia's progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration and remember their long history of multi-ethnic and religious tolerance.

I would like to applaud their democratic orientation, and strongly encourage the further strengthening of government reforms with respect to human rights, rule of law and free market economy.

I once again congratulate the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the anniversary of their independence, and I look forward to further collaboration between our two countries.

THE STRATEGY OF DEFEAT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as positive progress continues against America's enemies in Iraq, the vocal, timid and meek here at home promote a strategy of defeat and retreat. Victory to these retreatists is not an option because they plan for abandonment of the Iraqi people and failure for America's fight against those who murder in the name of religion.

These war alarmists wish to capitulate in this war. They want to redeploy the troops, which means withdraw our military while they are in the midst of success. This strategy of defeat will not bring peace to Iraq or America. It will not stop the extremists, but increase their determination for more violence against the innocents. It will not make us safe at home, but encourage those who hate us to kill again. And those vile zealots will rightfully claim America doesn't have the stomach to fight for the God-given principles of liberty.

President Kennedy told the world that America will pay any price, support any friend and oppose any foe to defend liberty. We do not fight for our-

selves alone. This war is more than for our cause alone. We fight for the human cause of all peoples to be free. That is what this war is about.

And that's just the way it is.

PUTTING A POSITIVE SPIN ON THE WORST MILITARY FIASCO IN AMERICAN HISTORY

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker are understandably trying to put a positive spin on the Iraq war. But the reality is that this has been the worst military fiasco in American history. But one of the questions I would like them to answer is how, when the Iraqi government has over \$56 billion of revenue this year, they have the gall to ask the American taxpayer for another \$170 billion?

They have \$40 billion in reserve that they have gotten from oil being over \$100 a barrel. The American taxpayer is paying more than \$3.30 a gallon for gas, and yet Iraq wants another \$170 billion? They have got \$10 billion in reconstruction funds. Yet we are going to continue to pay for all their needs? But that is what we are doing. We are paying for everything from military training, all the way down to garbage pickup, with American taxpayers' money, when they have got tens of billions of dollars that they choose not to spend.

This is a disgrace, Madam Speaker. This policy has never been worthy of the sacrifice of our military families, let alone their loved ones in uniform.

SUPPORT VICTORY, NOT DEFEAT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this morning I joined many of my colleagues from both political parties with over 400 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at an event organized by Vets for Freedom. This non-partisan organization is dedicated to supporting our veterans by achieving victory in the global war on terrorism to protect American families by defeating terrorism overseas. I am proud to stand with these patriotic Americans.

Their visit to Washington comes on the eve of General David Petraeus' and Ambassador Ryan Crocker's presentation to the House of their report on Iraq. I hope my colleagues will listen to General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker with an open mind.

As a grateful veteran with two sons who have served in Iraq, I know these two men serve the best interests of our troops and the safety of American families. They deserve attention to what they have to say.

The old, failed talking points that "the war is lost" or "so the surge is a

failure" do a disservice to this debate. Those claims have been soundly refuted by the facts on the ground, as I saw last month on my ninth visit to Iraq. Let's be sure our policy going forward is based on the facts.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

SUPPORTING THE BRAVE AMERICANS IN HARM'S WAY

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as I closed the rally today with 400 veterans in support of our troops and their mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, I quoted John Stuart Mill, who said, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral unpatriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing they care more about than their own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of ever being free unless those very freedoms are made and kept by better persons than themselves."

Those better persons are our Nation's veterans, the men and women in uniform, and today may God almighty, Jehovah God, bless and keep those brave Americans in harm's way on our behalf.

APPROVE THE U.S.-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, now that the Colombia trade agreement is before Congress, I hope that all Members will weigh its benefits carefully and approve it with a strong bipartisan up-or-down vote. The United States is the largest manufacturer and exporter in the world and new markets are essential to our workers, 42 percent of whom are employed by companies that are involved with trade.

The Colombia trade agreement would level the playing field for American workers and grant our exporters the same fair access that Colombian producers already enjoy into the U.S. market. It would also strategically strengthen Colombia's fight against narcoterrorists and help them reject the influence of Venezuela's anti-American strong man, Hugo Chavez.

I urge support of the U.S.-Colombia TPA.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS IN IRAQ

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker and my fellow colleagues, today is the day with General Petraeus to recognize that with all the rhetoric on this floor, that we should listen to the troops. They are the ones that are sacrificing. They are the ones that I believe have firsthand knowledge of what is occurring in Iraq.

I have a letter that I am going to read:

Dear Congressman YOUNG:

I am an Alaska Army National Guard soldier serving in Iraq voluntarily on one of the 10 'surge' Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams, based at Camp Taji. My team works in the Taji and Abu Ghraib districts, and soon, Tarmiya. Our surge military forces, along with the greatly improved Iraq Army, Police and local Critical Infrastructure Security Forces have won the battles. Al Qaeda is gone from our districts. Now we need the time to win the war. The security situations are set and 180 degrees turned around from pre-surge. I've seen it happen and am living it daily. Do not let the United States lose this part of the Global War against Terrorists. This campaign in Iraq needs to play out and be a visible win for our country. Me and my fellow Servicemembers and the Civilians of DOD and State are here to make it true. We need your support. Thank you for your time and attention. WE ARE WINNING.

Most Sincerely,

Mike Bridges, Colonel,

Deputy Team Leader, EPRT Baghdad
5.

□ 1415

VETS FOR FREEDOM

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, this morning I was honored to join with Senator MCCAIN and other Republican and Democratic Members of both the House and Senate to welcome over 400 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan that were here for a rally in support of all those who are risking their lives on the front lines in this global war against terror.

This morning's rally marks the single largest gathering of Iraq and Afghan veterans since the war began. Make no mistake, these heroes were gathering in support of victory, not a politically driven withdrawal, which would ensure defeat.

These veterans are so committed to success in Iraq and Afghanistan that they have formed a nationwide group, called Vets for Freedom, with a mission of educating the American public and Congress about the importance of achieving success in this global war on terror and what the failure to do so would mean for our Nation's security.

Every Member of this body should, this week, meet with these veterans,

talk to them, learn of the benefits of their firsthand experience in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the words of the Vets for Freedom, it is time to put "long-term national security before short-term partisan political gain."

Again, I thank the Vets for Freedom, as well as General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, for their great service to this country.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, according to the Energy Information Agency, the United States imports about 60 percent of its oil today and that number is expected to go up to almost 80 percent in the next 10 years. As a country, we need to reduce our dependency on foreign fuel sources and start implementing alternative energy sources and programs that can be found here in the United States, like coal.

Imported fuel such as crude oil and natural gas are costing the country millions of dollars a year and accounts for about one-third of the United States trade deficit. Imported fuels also account for about 17 percent of an increase in America's energy consumption from 2004 to 2005.

Now liquid coal can be developed for \$50 a barrel. Compare that with \$107 for oil today. Not only does this innovative fuel cost us less, but also coal is one of the most abundant natural resources in the United States. As Congress continues to explore the use of alternative energy sources, we need to look closely at coal to liquid.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

APRIL 7, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 7, 2008, at 10:33 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 73.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—MES- SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-103)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United

States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement represents an historic development in our relations with Colombia, which has shown its commitment to advancing democracy, protecting human rights, and promoting economic opportunity. Colombia's importance as a steadfast strategic partner of the United States was recognized by President Clinton's support for an appropriation in 2000 to provide funding for Plan Colombia, and my Administration has continued to stand with Colombia as it confronts violence, terror, and drug traffickers.

This Agreement will increase opportunity for the people of Colombia through sustained economic growth and is therefore vital to ensuring that Colombia continues on its trajectory of positive change. Under the leadership of President Alvaro Uribe, Colombia has made a remarkable turnaround since 1999 when it was on the verge of being a failed state. This progress is in part explained by Colombia's success in demobilizing tens of thousands of paramilitary fighters. The Colombian government reports that since 2002, kidnappings, terrorist attacks, and murders are all down substantially, as is violence against union members.

The Government of Colombia, with the assistance of the United States, is continuing its efforts to further reduce the level of violence in Colombia and to ensure that those responsible for violence are quickly brought to justice. To speed prosecutions of those responsible for violent crimes, the Prosecutor General's Office plans to hire this year 72 new prosecutors and more than 110 investigators into the Human Rights Unit. These additions are part of the increase of more than 2,100 staff that will be added to the Prosecutor General's office in 2008 and 2009. To support these additional personnel and their activities, Colombia has steadily increased the budget for the Prosecutor General's Office, including by more than \$40 million this year, bringing the total outlay for that office to nearly \$600 million.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out by the Congress in the Trade Act of 2002. My Administration has complied fully with the letter and spirit of Trade Promotion Authority—from preparation for the negotiations, to consultations with the Congress throughout the talks, to the content of the Agreement itself. In addition, my Administration has conducted several hundred further consultations, led congressional trips to Colombia, and last year renegotiated key labor, environmental, investment, and intellectual

property rights provisions in the Agreement at the behest of the Congress. By providing for the effective enforcement of labor and environmental laws, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance, the Agreement will contribute to improved worker rights and higher levels of environmental protection in Colombia. The result is an Agreement that all of us can be proud of and that will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening the Colombian market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on over 80 percent of U.S. industrial and consumer goods exported to Colombia will be eliminated immediately, with tariffs on the remaining goods eliminated within 10 years. The Agreement will allow 52 percent of U.S. agricultural exports, by value, to enter Colombia duty-free immediately, with the remaining agricultural tariffs phased out over time. This will help to level the playing field, as 91 percent of U.S. imports from Colombia already enjoy duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs.

My Administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Congress on a bipartisan path forward to secure approval of this legislation that builds on the positive spirit of the May 10, 2007, agreement on trade between the Administration and the House and Senate leadership, and the strong bipartisan support demonstrated by both Houses of Congress in overwhelmingly approving the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement last year. The United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement represents an historic step forward in U.S. relations with a key friend and ally in Latin America. Congressional approval of legislation to implement the Agreement is in our national interest, and I urge the Congress to act favorably on this legislation as quickly as possible.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 7, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 265) honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 265

Whereas more than 2,750,000 Americans are demonstrating their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas 50 percent of the members of the Armed Forces, when deployed away from their permanent duty stations, have left families with children behind;

Whereas no one feels the effect of those deployments more than the children of deployed service members;

Whereas as of March 15, 2008, approximately 3,400 of these children have lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces during the preceding 5 years;

Whereas the daily struggles and personal sacrifices of children of members of the Armed Forces too often go unnoticed;

Whereas the children of members of the Armed Forces are a source of pride and honor to all Americans and it is fitting that the Nation recognize their contributions and celebrate their spirit;

Whereas the "National Month of the Military Child", observed in April each year, recognizes military children for their sacrifices and contributes to demonstrating the Nation's unconditional support to members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas in addition to Department of Defense programs to support military families and military children, various programs and campaigns have been established in the private sector to honor, support, and thank military children by fostering awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices and the challenges they face; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage support for those organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support for military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring the children of members of the Armed Forces and recognizes that they too share in the burden of protecting the Nation;

(2) urges Americans to join with the military community in observing the "National Month of the Military Child" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children; and

(3) recognizes with great appreciation the contributions made by private-sector organizations that provide resources and assistance to military families and the communities that support them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I stand before you in support of House Resolution 265, honoring military children for their personal sacrifice and recognizing the month of April as the National Month of the Military Child.

Currently, 2.75 million Americans are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Of that number, 1.7 million who have served or who are currently serving have been deployed, nearly 600,000 members have deployed more than once, and close to 260,000 are currently deployed.

These are important points for us to take note of and reflect upon today because today there are nearly 1.2 million military children in families whose parents proudly serve in the uniform.

Unfortunately, 50 percent of the servicemembers who are currently deployed away from their duty stations are separated from their spouses and their children.

Long-term and multiple deployments have shown undesirable effects on both servicemembers, their families and their children. They sometimes experience severe emotional, psychological and fiscal problems over the course of these deployments. Over extended periods of time, anxiety and strain become a part of the daily lives of both spouses and children who sacrifice unduly.

Approximately 3,400 military children have lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces during the preceding 5 years. Military children are making personal sacrifices in support of this Nation.

During National Month of the Military Child, we need to ensure that we support all the American children who faithfully share their family in order to protect our way of life.

House Resolution 265 encourages public and private sector support for both military children and their families through direct contributions to scholarships, grants and donations, action which promotes family readiness.

So it is appropriate to celebrate the children who are loved by these brave men and women in uniform. The health and the well-being of these children is important to the overall readiness of our forces.

We therefore appreciate the leadership shown by our distinguished colleague from Northern Virginia (Mr. MORAN) in sponsoring this important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 265, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 265, as amended, which honors military children during National Month of the Military Child.

Today we are a Nation at war with more than 2.75 million men and women in uniform and more than 280,000 deployed worldwide. The men and women

of today's Armed Forces are all volunteers, but as never before in our history, they are also married and have families. At any given time, when deployed away from their home bases, 50 percent of the members of the Armed Forces leave behind families with children.

While the numbers and statistics are interesting, the real message here is that the sacrifices and commitments made by the members of the armed services are very often directly felt and experienced by their family members and especially their children. Each of the military services and the Department of Defense go to extraordinary lengths to provide the resources and environment to support military families and children. Preservation and support of families is recognized as a military readiness requirement.

I fully support those efforts. The resolution today strives to ensure that proper attention is focused on sacrifices, spirit and contributions made by the children of military families. This resolution also seeks to bring the recognition and thanks to both the Department of Defense and private sector programs that support military children and families.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for sponsoring this important resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) who is the original sponsor of this important measure.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank my friend, the distinguished delegate from Guam, for yielding me the time.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) for his kind comments as well. I am glad to be joined here by the Chair of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. Chet Edwards.

Madam Speaker, a child's process of growing up is difficult, but imagine what it must be like when one parent or even both parents are deployed abroad as part of their duty in our Armed Forces.

While friends and relatives pray for their safe return, no one feels the impact of deployment more than the children of servicemembers in combat overseas. We are learning more about the impact that living under this shadow of uncertainty has on our children.

The incidence of military children needing psychological counseling has increased dramatically. Last year Children's Hospital in the District of Columbia had over 1,000 visits from military children suffering from behavioral and mental health problems. These are just normal kids who want what any child wants, their mothers and fathers at home to tuck them in at night reassuring them everything will be all right.

Today more than 2,300,000 Americans demonstrate their courage and com-

mitment every day to our Nation by serving in our Armed Forces. Of these men and women, most have families subjected to frequent moves from one installation to another, long deployments abroad, and the fear that their loved one serving overseas might never come home.

□ 1430

Fifty percent of our troops deployed overseas have children that are left behind. That is more than one million children with at least one parent deployed overseas. Those figures, statistics, can too easily be ignored sometimes because they are abstract. But here is one that can't be dismissed: 3,400 children have already lost a parent serving in the Armed Forces over the past 6 years.

When I introduced this resolution 2 years ago, the number of children who had lost a parent was 1,000 and now it is 3,400. The Department of Defense understands that without the families' support, they will never have the soldiers' full support.

In 1986, Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger declared this month the "National Month of the Military Child." Every year since, events at military bases, forts and other installations across the Nation have been held to celebrate the military family, replete with lots of lofty rhetoric but not enough true attention to their needs.

Two bases in my own district, Fort Belvoir and Fort Myer, hold annual events providing military kids the chance to be distracted a bit by just being a kid with other kids in similar situations. But the Congress needs to step up.

Today I am glad to join with my colleagues, particularly with my colleagues who will speak here today, to offer this resolution officially recognizing the month of April as the National Month of the Military Child, and dedicating the Congress to pay more attention to the children and the spouses of our soldiers.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Representative ISSA and WALTER JONES of North Carolina are bipartisan sponsors for this effort. I thank them for their support and leadership.

This resolution is just a small way that Congress can recognize the sacrifice these youngsters and their families are asked to make, but it is an opportunity to commit ourselves to doing much more.

Specifically, the resolution joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring military children, recognizing that they too share the burden and are making a great sacrifice in protecting our Nation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the organization Kids Serve Too. It is in my congressional district, and is dedicated to the needs of military families everywhere. It was created by military families to support other military families. Kids Serve Too

sponsors activities and events for military children. It is represented in the gallery today specifically by Tricia Johnson and her daughters, Cat and Claire, and her sister, Kathleen Murphy.

Madam Speaker, military families and their children deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their sacrifice. Today we honor them and their sacrifice and thank you for bringing this resolution to the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are not permitted to recognize guests in the gallery.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction.

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for her time and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I want to salute Mr. MORAN and the cosponsors of this resolution. In my book, military children and spouses are truly the unsung heroes and heroines of our Nation's defense. They may not put on our Nation's uniform, but they serve every single day and they serve with great honor and distinction.

One cannot have a makeup day for a parent not being present for a birthday, special occasion, for a mom or dad not being there for a high school graduation or a college graduation. There are no makeup days for those missed special occasions. And as Mr. MORAN pointed out, in 3,400 cases, military children have made the ultimate sacrifice of losing a mother or father in service to our country. It is so right that we honor these great Americans, the military children, today with this resolution.

As Mr. MORAN also pointed out, I think it is also more important that we honor them not just during the month of April with our words and floor speeches, but every day and every month and every year with our deeds, with effective funding, adequate funding for the Impact Aid Program that provides extra Federal funding to school districts with heavy concentrations of military children, with day-care programs which this Congress last year took the initiative on and added \$130 million worth of day-care centers for military children throughout the country, especially needed during a time of war.

We worked hard on military housing so children can live in houses they are proud to call their homes, and their parents are as well. And this Congress last year took the initiative in increasing by an historic unprecedented level funding for VA medical care so that when those parents leave the military, they will continue to get their military care. I urge support of this resolution.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 265, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 70) congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 70

Whereas on January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a "special message" to the Senate and the House of Representatives that "earnestly recommended passage" of legislation to establish a Federal reserve force of skilled and trained personnel to bring "our Army . . . to the highest point of efficiency";

Whereas on December 14, 1905, the then-Secretary of War and later 27th President of the United States, William Howard Taft, transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives a draft bill and letter authored by Major General Leonard Wood, "strongly commending . . . proposed legislation" to "increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps of the Army" by establishing a Federal reserve force comprised of specially trained personnel;

Whereas in response to the recommendations of President Theodore Roosevelt and senior military and civilian leaders, the 60th Congress enacted Public Law 101, entitled "An Act to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army", ch. 150, 35 Stat. 66, which was signed into law on April 23, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Public Law 101 authorized the establishment of the first Federal reserve force and the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status for a United States military service;

Whereas Congress subsequently adapted, expanded, and amended the reserve organization of the Army to include additional military occupational specialties and capabilities and established the organization today known as the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of our Nation and in furtherance of United States interests for 100 years;

Whereas many distinguished Americans have served honorably and with distinction in the Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 169,500 soldiers to the Army during World War I;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed 200,000 soldiers and 29 percent of the Army's officers during World War II and was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense;

Whereas 240,500 soldiers of the Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas more than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers were called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis;

Whereas 35 Army Reserve units were activated and deployed in support of operations in Vietnam, where they served with distinction and honor;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 94,000 soldiers in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the Army Reserve contributed more than 48 percent of the reserve component soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas since September 11, 2001, the Army Reserve has provided indispensable and sustained support for Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom, with 98 percent of units either deployed or providing mobilized soldiers, and more than 147,000 individual soldiers being mobilized (of which more than 110,000 individual soldiers have deployed) in support of the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas more than 39,000 individual soldiers of the Army Reserve have served multiple deployments since September 11, 2001;

Whereas 13,003 Army Reserve soldiers were forward-deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility on October 31, 2007, and 102 soldiers of the Army Reserve had borne the ultimate sacrifice in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom through October 31, 2007;

Whereas the Army Reserve is organized into 3 components, the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve, which together contain more than 601,000 soldiers;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the highly skilled and trained personnel of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve provides more than 37 percent of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas 100 percent of the Army's Internment Settlement Brigades, Judge Advocate General Units (Legal Support Organizations), Medical Groups, Railway Units, and Training and Exercise Divisions are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas more than 66 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs Units, Psychological Operations Units, Theater Signal Commands, Expeditionary Sustainment Commands, and Medical Capabilities are in the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Army Reserve is no longer a force held in strategic reserve but today functions as an integral and essential operational reserve in support of the missions of the active Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war or sustain a military operation without the skilled and trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve soldiers of the Army Reserve;

Whereas the Selected Reserve component of the Army Reserve is comprised of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers who have volunteered their personal service in defense of the Constitution and their fellow citizens;

Whereas the Army and the Army Reserve are recognized as institutions that have played historic and decisive roles in promoting the cause of individual dignity and the value of integration;

Whereas nearly one in four Selected Reserve soldiers and more than one in five Individual Ready Reserve soldiers are women whose contributions are consistently characterized by a high degree of commitment, professionalism, and military bearing;

Whereas the ability of individual soldiers and the Army Reserve to perform their wartime missions is contingent on the active engagement and support of their families, employers, and local communities;

Whereas the Army Reserve is a community-based force with an active presence in 1,100 communities and 975 Army Reserve centers in operation throughout the United States;

Whereas Sir Winston Churchill once remarked that "Reservists are twice the citizen", a sentiment that applies especially to the soldiers of the Army Reserve; and

Whereas the Army Reserve makes these contributions to the security of our nation in return for less than 5 percent of the Army's total budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) congratulates the Army Reserve on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the enactment of its original authorizing law;

(2) recognizes and commends the Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers whose personal courage, contributions, and sacrifices have helped preserve the freedom and advance the national security and homeland defense of the United States; and

(3) extends its gratitude to the veterans, soldiers, families, and employers whose essential and constant support have enabled the Army Reserve to accomplish its vital missions and renews our Nation's commitment in support of their noble efforts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO, Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 70, which commemorates 2008 as the centennial of the United States Army Reserve, celebrating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to operations at home and abroad. I thank my colleague, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, for introducing this important resolution.

On January 9, 1905, the 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, dispatched a special message to the Senate and the House of Representatives recommending passage of legislation to establish a Federal Reserve force of trained personnel to bring our Army to its highest point of efficiency.

Beginning as a supplementary unit at the turn of the 20th century, our Army Reserve soldiers have shown immeasurable dedication and valor through the broadening of their inceptive purpose. The Army Reserve has developed from a few support troops during World War I into a vital and sustained operational force for current and future operations. This Federal force has been deployed in different capacities, serving in eight wars and defending the interests of the United States and its allies in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Russia, Berlin, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Kenya, Iraq and numerous humanitarian missions in other countries during its first 100 years. Involvement in operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, and Iraqi Freedom shows the Army is incomplete without the skilled and trained personnel of its Reserve.

The Army Reserve has grown from 160 medical officers to virtually 200,000 soldiers who play a major role in the defense of our Nation and who continue in the furtherance of the United States defense interests.

At this moment approximately 50,000 of our Nation's Army Reserve soldiers are serving on active duty around the world. These men and women voluntarily put their civilian careers and family lives on hold. And in most cases, they do so for over a year which is a testament to their selflessness, patriotism, and willingness to sacrifice for the good of our country.

Indeed, I am extremely proud of all of our Armed Forces: the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps and the National Guard. Our entire military continues to work diligently in a time of conflict, and deserves the highest respect for their courage in the face of adversity.

H.J. Res. 70 is our way, as the United States Congress, of recognizing the centennial of our Army Reserve, a force that our institution played a role in creating 100 years ago. This resolution honors the sacrifice and tremendous distinction of the millions of American men and women who have served as Army soldiers since April 23, 1908.

Madam Speaker, I again thank our colleague from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) for his initiative in bringing us together today to recognize and honor the Army Reserve on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 70, as amended, which congratulates the Army Reserve on its centennial.

There are over 340 Army reservists in Virginia's First Congressional District, and over 150 have been mobilized in support of the global war on terror. Ever since 1908 when the Army Reserve began as a means to increase the efficiency of the Army Medical Corps, the Army Reserve and its soldiers have stepped up magnificently to every challenge and mission presented to them.

Those challenges span the breadth of the American wars in the past 100 years. In World War I, 169,500 Army reservists served; in World War II, 200,000, including 29 percent of the Army's officer corps; in Korea, 240,500; in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 94,000. And since September 11, 2001, 147,000 Army reservists have been mobilized in support of the global war on terror; 110,000 have deployed, 39,000 have served multiple deployments, and 102 have died in the war on terror.

Army reservists are citizen soldiers active in 1,100 communities across the Nation. They are the sons and daughters, mothers and fathers of America. They are remarkable in many respects, but no more so than their willingness to serve this Nation in a professional and unselfish manner. They continue to serve today knowing that they will likely be deployed away from home, family and civilian employment.

For many in America, the patriotism, commitment, and sacrifice of these remarkable citizens called Army reservists goes unnoticed. I believe every effort should be made to highlight and acknowledge their service to a grateful Nation. So it is entirely proper and fitting that we take this moment not only to mark an historical milestone of 100 years of service to the Nation by the Army Reserve, but also to honor those soldiers past and present who have served and are serving so honorably as well as Army reservists.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this joint resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the original sponsor of this joint resolution.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to sponsor this bipartisan resolution, along with Representatives BUYER, SHIMKUS and TAYLOR, to congratulate the United States Army Reserve on its 100th anniversary, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008.

The resolution, which has 260 cosponsors, also commemorates the contributions of Army Reserve veterans who've helped to ensure that the United States' vital national security inter-

ests are protected and defended in times of war and peace.

I'm very gratified by the outpouring of bipartisan support that this resolution has received. It's indicative of the high regard and esteem in which the Army Reserve is held among Members of Congress and the American people.

As a current member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, as well as the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Committee, I've been extremely impressed by the level of commitment that Army Reserve soldiers bring to their work, and by their high degree of professionalism. They truly are "twice the citizen," as Winston Churchill once remarked.

Today, the U.S. Army Reserve is composed of more than 30,000 officers and 150,000 enlisted soldiers. They have an active presence in 1,100 communities across our Nation, contributing military values, important job skills, and economic support. They are husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. They are our neighbors, our friends, our acquaintances and our colleagues at work. These soldiers can be called up at any time to serve our Nation, and they must be trained and prepared to respond at a moment's notice.

Here in the House of Representatives, 24 Members, including myself, have been privileged to serve in the Reserves. In fact, two of the lead sponsors of this resolution, Representatives STEVE BUYER and JOHN SHIMKUS, still serve in the Army Reserve.

As this resolution notes, the role of today's Army Reserve soldier has expanded and changed dramatically since President Roosevelt first requested that Congress establish a reserve of trained officers. On April 23, 1908, Congress responded to the President's request by establishing a permanent reserve corps of trained medical officers. The modest corps represented the humble start of what is today a multi-faceted operational and strategic force.

Since then, their duties have expanded. The Army Reserve is now an integral component in any active U.S. Army mission. They have answered the call of duty in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Panama, the Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo and, of course, since September 11, 2001, in Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Through October 31, 2007, 102 Army Reserve soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, an additional four Reserve officers have lost their lives in combat. We dedicate this resolution to their memory and to the memory of all Reserve soldiers who fought and died defending our Nation's freedoms throughout our history.

We dedicate this resolution to our living heroes as well, to those men and women who continue their service to our Nation in the U.S. Army Reserve today.

I want to commend several staff members for the outstanding work in bringing this resolution to the floor: Kevin Coughlin, Joe Hicken and John Chapla on the House Armed Services Committee, Tim Welter and Abel Carreiro on Congressman BUYER's staff, Grant Culp from Congressman SHIMKUS' staff, Randy Jennings on Congressman TAYLOR's staff, David Whitney on the House Judiciary Committee, Lieutenant General Jack C. Stultz and Lieutenant Colonel Rob Young of the Army Reserve, and Jonathan Halpern and Ed Larkin on my staff.

Madam Speaker, I, again, thank my colleagues who are cosponsors for their extraordinary support of this resolution, and I urge its immediate adoption.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, as the Army Reserve celebrates its centennial, I rise to congratulate the Reserve on its dedicated service and sacrifice to ensure our Nation's freedom. Since its inception on April 23, 1908, the Reserve and its more than 1 million citizen-soldiers have protected American citizens at home and abroad. When tyranny raises its fist and liberty is threatened, the citizen-soldier answers the call to ease the suffering. For this, our Nation is forever grateful.

Today, more than 20,000 Army Reserve soldiers are deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and 18 other countries, with an additional 7,000 Army Reserve serving in the United States. In my home State of Minnesota, historic Fort Snelling is the proud home to the 88th Regional Readiness Command, comprised of Reserve units from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. America's greatness lies in her people, and the American soldier is the embodiment of hard work, patriotism and service, the finest of America's principles.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize today the selfless commitment and sacrifice of so many citizen-soldiers. It is they who lay down their lives to defend those who cannot defend themselves. It is they who lay down their lives to protect the rights of those who disrespect our flag and our Nation. And it is they who lay down their lives so that true freedom will never know extinction. As April 23 approaches, let us remember and be forever grateful for the Army Reserve's 100 years of noble service and sacrifice to our Nation.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 70, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentlewoman from Guam seek recognition?

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the demand for the yeas and nays?

There was no objection.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE TREMENDOUS SERVICE THAT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HAVE GIVEN TO THE NATION

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1020) recognizing the tremendous service that members of the Armed Forces have given to the Nation, especially those who have been wounded in combat, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1020

Whereas United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and their families have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve our country in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas more than 1,600,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have been deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom since September 2001;

Whereas more than 30,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have been wounded in battle;

Whereas advances in battlefield medicine have resulted in hundreds of lives being saved; and

Whereas both physical and mental injuries sustained during combat have a life-altering impact on our servicemen and women as well as their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the tremendous service that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have given to the Nation, especially those who have sustained injury in combat;

(2) is committed to providing wounded warriors with the highest quality medical care available, and to supporting wounded members of all Armed Forces and their families during their recovery;

(3) commends the actions of private citizens and organizations who volunteer their continued support to America's wounded warriors; and

(4) encourages Members and all citizens to take steps to show support and appreciation for returning troops, especially those who have been wounded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1020, recognizing the tremendous service that members of our Armed Forces have provided to the country, especially those who have been wounded in combat. I thank our colleague from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for introducing this resolution.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and their families are making extraordinary sacrifices in service to our country. Over 4,500 servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Nearly 32,000 servicemembers have been wounded, of which a little over 17,000 have returned to duty.

Today, servicemembers have an unprecedented chance of survival, unlike those who had similar wounds in Vietnam and the Second World War. The medical advances that have taken place on the current battlefield have made these significant achievements possible.

However, while members are surviving their injuries and wounds at an unprecedented rate, they are coming home with more complex psychological injuries. These individuals who have honorably served our Nation may need medical care and assistance for the rest of their lives.

House Resolution 1020 commits this Congress to ensuring that these brave, wounded warriors receive the best medical care available, and commends all Americans who volunteer to support these wounded warriors and their families.

So, Madam Speaker, I again commend our colleague from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for his introduction of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1020, as amended, which recognizes the tremendous service that members of the Armed Forces have given to the Nation, especially those who have been wounded in combat.

Madam Speaker, throughout our history, America's sons and daughters have been called upon to fight our Nation's wars to preserve our freedom and our way of life. Each time we have gone to war, these brave men and women who answered the call, unfortunately, have been wounded and injured; 204,002 in World War I, 671,846 in World War II, 103,284 in Korea, 153,303 in Vietnam, and 467 in Desert Storm.

Today, Madam Speaker, as we continue to fight terrorism throughout the world, 30,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have been wounded and injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. As with

previous generations, these men and women are our Nation's finest, and we owe them more than just our gratitude.

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Congress and the American people have made it clear that our combat wounded deserve the best our Nation has to offer. To that end, Congress has worked hard to ensure that the needs of the wounded troops and their families are met. From the best health care to jobs, to education benefits, the Members of this House have and will continue to insist that the support to the wounded and injured is unsurpassed.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that serving in combat is a profoundly life-altering experience. Men and women who survive the horrors of combat return home forever changed. Our Nation is eternally indebted to the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who fight to preserve our freedoms.

It is right and fitting, Madam Speaker, that today we recognize the service and the sacrifice of the members of the Armed Forces who have been wounded while serving this great Nation.

I'd like to thank my friend and colleague from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for introducing this resolution, and I strongly urge all Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS. I want to thank the sponsor of this bill, Mr. WELCH, from Vermont.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of House Resolution 1020. Thanks to advances in modern technology, many American soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have lived through events that would have previously cost them their lives. Of the 1.6 million servicemembers that have been deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom, in Operation Iraqi Freedom since September, 2001, more than 30,000 have been wounded in battle.

The numbers are staggering, but we are here today to acknowledge that these wounded warriors are not just statistics; they are men and women from across the country who have faced unique situations and struggles, and they have individual stories to tell.

Last summer I had the honor to meet a young man from my district who was injured in a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq that killed three other soldiers riding in the same HUMVEE. He suffered extensive injuries, including a broken back and elbow, and underwent two surgeries at a hospital in Germany before being transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Quick reaction by the medics meant that instead of being paralyzed, he can now walk again, but only after extensive surgeries and painful rehabilita-

tion. This young man is actually a lucky one. He was able to recover with the help of a caring family and a supportive wife. There are many others that are not as fortunate, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the best physical and emotional support possible.

Over the last year, Congress has taken many steps to enhance the quality of care of our veterans, including passing the largest increase in veterans' health funding in history, but there is still more to be done.

With this legislation, we do a simple but necessary thing; we take a moment to thank the men and women of the Armed Services who have been wounded in the line of duty and for their service and their sacrifice.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of House Resolution 1020.

□ 1500

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the original sponsor of this very important resolution.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Guam, my cosponsor and traveling companion, the new Member, the distinguished Member already from Virginia, my cosponsors.

You know, they have said it pretty well. There's nothing that we can say or do that will acknowledge our appreciation for the sacrifice that the men and women of the uniformed services have given to this country.

What we are acknowledging here is that we have a common commitment to meeting the needs of those soldiers and sailors and airmen who return from active duty. What we are also acknowledging is that in this war, very much unlike past conflicts, our soldiers, benefiting from this extraordinary battlefield medicine, are returning with extraordinary injuries. That is what they will have to live with for the rest of their lives.

Many of us have had the opportunity to visit some of these soldiers out at Bethesda, out at Walter Reed. We are trying, in this small gesture, to acknowledge the sense that all of us have in Congress of our debt and our obligation and our appreciation to them.

Madam Speaker, next week, we are going to have a group of these servicemen and -women visiting us in the Capitol. I'm going to be joining with my colleagues here today to welcome those men and women of the uniformed services to this Capitol, and I will encourage all of us to join in welcoming them personally to thank them for their sacrifice.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague from Vermont

to voice strong support for H. Res. 1020, which expresses the commitment of this Congress to our injured heroes, ensures they're receiving the highest quality of health care available and encourages all Americans to show support and appreciation for our veterans.

Today, I want to take time to thank all of the servicemen and -women and their families for their sacrifices. I know the pride of having a son serve in the United States military, and my wife, Sue, and I pray every day for the safety of our fighting men and women abroad and here at home.

When our soldiers go into battle, we can all agree that they deserve the best training, equipment, and necessary resources to accomplish their mission. Congress has an obligation to care for America's wounded heroes when they return home from the battlefield. I believe the least we can do is to provide the highest quality medical care to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces when they're injured defending the freedoms that we enjoy.

Right now, we have more wounded warriors returning home than ever before because of improved medical technology and advanced equipment to transport our sick and wounded. The thousands of men and women serving in the military who have been wounded serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and other wars deserve the best treatment and care available.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in a nonpartisan manner to make sure Congress delivers on our responsibility. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1020 and support our wounded warriors.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close after my colleague has yielded back his time. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers, and I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to my colleague on the House Committee on Armed Services and Natural Resources, Mr. WITTMAN. I've enjoyed working with him on the floor this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1020, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1198) to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1198

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF HEARING LOSS.

Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "INFANTS" and inserting "NEWBORNS AND INFANTS";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "screening, evaluation and intervention programs and systems" and inserting "screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs and systems, and to assist in the recruitment, retention, education, and training of qualified personnel and health care providers,";

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) To develop and monitor the efficacy of statewide programs and systems for hearing screening of newborns and infants; prompt evaluation and diagnosis of children referred from screening programs; and appropriate educational, audiological, and medical interventions for children identified with hearing loss. Early intervention includes referral to and delivery of information and services by schools and agencies, including community, consumer, and parent-based agencies and organizations and other programs mandated by part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique language and communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants, toddlers, and children. Programs and systems under this paragraph shall establish and foster family-to-family support mechanisms that are critical in the first months after a child is identified with hearing loss.";

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) To develop efficient models to ensure that newborns and infants who are identified with a hearing loss through screening receive follow-up by a qualified health care provider. These models shall be evaluated for their effectiveness, and State agencies shall be encouraged to adopt models that effectively increase the rate of occurrence of such follow-up.

"(4) To ensure an adequate supply of qualified personnel to meet the screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and early intervention needs of children.";

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking "hearing loss screening, evaluation, and intervention programs" and inserting "hearing loss screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "for purposes of this section, continue" and insert the following: "for purposes of this section—

"(A) continue";

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) establish a postdoctoral fellowship program to foster research and development in the area of early hearing detection and intervention.";

(4) in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c), by striking the term "hearing screening, evaluation and intervention programs" each place such term appears and inserting "hearing

screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs";

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "ensuring that families of the child" and all that follows and inserting "ensuring that families of the child are provided comprehensive, consumer-oriented information about the full range of family support, training, information services, and language and communication options and are given the opportunity to consider and obtain the full range of such appropriate services, educational and program placements, and other options for their child from highly qualified providers.";

and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking ", after re-screening,"; and

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2014";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2014"; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "fiscal year 2002" and inserting "fiscal years 2009 through 2014".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1198, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act. I'm very proud to have introduced this bill with Congressman JIM WALSH of New York, who has championed this issue for many years.

This bill is near and dear to me as co-chair of both the Hearing Health Caucus and the Infant Health and Safety Caucus.

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program is one of those success stories that are often rare in Washington. Since its authorization in 2000, we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of newborns who are being screened for hearing loss, but our work is not done. We need to ensure that every newborn is screened and that every family that needs access to follow-up care is given that access.

I have been a school nurse for over 20 years, and in those years, I can tell you firsthand what happens to a child who has undiagnosed hearing loss and/or never received proper intervention. They may fall behind in school and they may face other social difficulties. Early identification and intervention are essential to a child's well-being, and that's what we aim to achieve through the reauthorization of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act.

I would like to thank the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance, the American Academy of Audiology, and the March of Dimes for their support of this legislation. Let's continue to build upon the success of the past 8 years and make sure that every child has access to diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to join my colleague in supporting H.R. 1198, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2008.

This legislation reauthorizes the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, which was first enacted in 2000 to help States develop newborn hearing screening and early intervention programs. This program has successfully improved newborn screening for hearing loss, which allows many children to benefit from early detection. This provides enhanced opportunities for language and communication skill development.

Unfortunately, children experiencing hearing loss who are not identified early can have delays in speech, language, and cognitive development. Through grant programs, this legislation helps ensure infants with hearing losses are identified and receive appropriate follow-up care. The bill also establishes a post-doctoral fellowship program to improve early hearing detection research.

This legislation moved through our committee in a bipartisan fashion, and I would urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPs. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) who was the sponsor of the original legislation which this bill seeks to reauthorize.

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. DEAL from Georgia, for yielding time and his leadership on health issues. I would also like to thank my colleague from California, LOIS CAPPs, who's done such a marvelous job of leading the Hearing Caucus for the past several years.

I would like to recognize, also, my cochairs along with Congresswoman CAPPs, VERN EHLERS, and CAROLYN MCCARTHY, who also worked long and hard on this issue, as well as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance, the National Center of Hearing for Assessment and Management. Without their hard work, this important legislation would not have been possible.

In the year 2000, Congress authorized the Children's Health Act which, among several initiatives, provided the necessary authority for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to begin addressing the screening

and intervention needs of newborns and children with hearing loss. Indeed, when this program began, there were pilot programs in the country, probably back about 12 or 13 years ago, 3 percent of the children born in the United States were tested. Today, it's well over 95 percent of the entire universe of newborns born in the United States today are being tested.

As we all know, the first 3 years of life are the most important period for language and speech development. It is essential that hearing impaired infants and young children be identified and an intervention begun in order to take full advantage of the developing sensory systems. If unidentified, these children will lose out on the crucial period of speech and language learning.

Auditory impairment can impact social, emotional, cognitive, and academic development leading to personal, vocational, and economical defects. Delayed identification in management of severe to profound hearing loss can impede a child's ability to adopt to life in a hearing or deaf community.

The early hearing, detection, and intervention programs include screening, audiological evaluation, and early intervention to enhance communication, thinking, and behavioral skills needed to achieve academic and social success. The EHDI programs are serving a critical need in a successful manner.

Today, I call upon Congress to continue the success that has been experienced since the year 2000 and enact legislation to reauthorize EHDI programs. H.R. 1198 builds upon the EHDI authorization from the year 2000 to address areas of continuing challenge.

First, it would provide authority to address those children who are falling through cracks and not receiving necessary care after a screening that shows they have potential hearing loss.

Second, it is clear that family-to-family support is critical in the first months after a child is identified with hearing loss. Excellent family-to-family support programs developed by state EHDI programs and other organizations are not yet widely implemented. This legislation would provide the agency authority to support and disseminate such programs that are working for parents and their children.

Third, it is clear that more research and study is needed in the area of hearing detection and intervention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. WALSH of New York. I thank the gentleman.

H.R. 1198 would enable NIH to establish a post-doctoral research fellowship program to effectively recruit researchers to become involved in early hearing detection and intervention.

Finally, H.R. 1198 provides the agency the authority to address the shortage of trained health professionals and other personnel necessary to make cer-

tain that every child who is screened with a hearing problem gets access to appropriate interventions needed to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. Again, I thank my cochairmen on the caucus.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. I would urge the adoption of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and as I do, I would like to remind us all that since the authorization of the Early Hearing Detection Intervention Act in 2000, we've seen a tremendous increase in the numbers of newborns who are being screened for hearing loss; and with this passage of this reauthorization, we can continue to build upon the success of the past 8 years and make sure that every child has access to diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act.

Sadly, thousands of infants are born with a hearing loss each year. Fortunately, thanks to the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program that was established in 2000, today approximately 93 percent of all newborns are screened. Many infants with hearing loss and their families have benefited from early identification of hearing loss. The EHDI program allows babies with hearing loss to develop normally and lead productive lives by ensuring that they will be ready to learn when they enter school.

However, many infants who are identified as having a hearing disability due to the screening tests do not receive timely follow-up care because of shortages in trained professionals needed for infant hearing screening programs. We must do better in ensuring that infants and their families have access to comprehensive hearing loss care. The bill seeks to accomplish this by presiding comprehensive information about family support, training, and information services to the family of children identified with hearing loss and ensure that they are given the opportunity to consider all the options of early intervention services, educational and program placements.

This legislation will improve on the successful Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program. I urge my colleagues to vote for this much needed bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1198, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

WAKEFIELD ACT

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2464) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in Emergency Medical Services for Children, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2464

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wakefield Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) There are 31,000,000 child and adolescent visits to the Nation's emergency departments every year.

(2) Over 90 percent of children requiring emergency care are seen in general hospitals, not in free-standing children's hospitals, with one-quarter to one-third of the patients being children in the typical general hospital emergency department.

(3) Severe asthma and respiratory distress are the most common emergencies for pediatric patients, representing nearly one-third of all hospitalizations among children under the age of 15 years, while seizures, shock, and airway obstruction are other common pediatric emergencies, followed by cardiac arrest and severe trauma.

(4) Up to 20 percent of children needing emergency care have underlying medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, sickle-cell disease, low birth weight, and bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

(5) Significant gaps remain in emergency medical care delivered to children. Only about 6 percent of hospitals have available all the pediatric supplies deemed essential by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians for managing pediatric emergencies, while about half of hospitals have at least 85 percent of those supplies.

(6) Providers must be educated and trained to manage children's unique physical and psychological needs in emergency situations, and emergency systems must be equipped with the resources needed to care for this especially vulnerable population.

(7) Systems of care must be continually maintained, updated, and improved to ensure that research is translated into practice, best practices are adopted, training is current, and standards and protocols are appropriate.

(8) The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program under section 1910 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w-9) is the only Federal program that focuses specifically on improving the pediatric components of emergency medical care.

(9) The EMSC Program promotes the nationwide exchange of pediatric emergency medical care knowledge and collaboration by those with an interest in such care and is depended upon by Federal agencies and national organizations to ensure that this exchange of knowledge and collaboration takes place.

(10) The EMSC Program also supports a multi-institutional network for research in pediatric emergency medicine, thus allowing providers to rely on evidence rather than anecdotal experience when treating ill or injured children.

(11) The Institute of Medicine stated in its 2006 report, "Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains", that the EMSC Program "boasts many accomplishments ... and the work of the program continues to be relevant and vital".

(12) The EMSC Program has proven effective over two decades in driving key improvements in emergency medical services to children, and should continue its mission to reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality by supporting improvements in the quality of all emergency

medical and emergency surgical care children receive.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this Act to reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality by supporting improvements in the quality of all emergency medical care children receive.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.

Section 1910 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w-9) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “3-year period (with an optional 4th year)” and inserting “4-year period (with an optional 5th year)”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “and such sums” and inserting “such sums”; and

(B) by inserting before the period the following: “, \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, \$26,250,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$27,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, \$28,940,625 for fiscal year 2012, and \$30,387,656 for fiscal year 2013”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b)(1) The purpose of the program established under this section is to reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality by supporting improvements in the quality of all emergency medical care children receive, through the promotion of projects focused on the expansion and improvement of such services, including those in rural areas and those for children with special healthcare needs. In carrying out this purpose, the Secretary shall support emergency medical services for children by supporting projects that—

“(A) develop and present scientific evidence;

“(B) promote existing and innovative technologies appropriate for the care of children; or

“(C) provide information on health outcomes and effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

“(2) The program established under this section shall—

“(A) strive to enhance the pediatric capability of emergency medical service systems originally designed primarily for adults; and

“(B) in order to avoid duplication and ensure that Federal resources are used efficiently and effectively, be coordinated with all research, evaluations, and awards related to emergency medical services for children undertaken and supported by the Federal Government.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act. This legislation reauthorizes the Emergency Medical Services for Children “EMSC” program. The EMSC program ensures state-of-the-art emergency medical care for ill or injured children and adolescents.

Since its establishment more than 20 years ago, the EMSC program has driv-

en major improvements in emergency care for children. In fact, injury-related deaths among children have dropped by 40 percent over that time period. Enormous strides have been made in areas such as ensuring that all ambulances carry appropriate pediatric supplies and equipment, and in collecting data on pediatric emergency care to inform future quality improvement efforts. Although much progress has been achieved, more remains to be done.

H.R. 2464 is an important piece of legislation that will work toward ensuring the best emergency medical care for children.

I would like to congratulate my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, JIM MATHESON, and commend him for his hard work and dedication to this important piece of legislation.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2464.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 2464, which reauthorizes the Emergency Medical Services for Children program. It is, indeed, the only Federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children. Since its inception in 1984, death rates due to pediatric injury have dropped some 40 percent.

The program provides grants to States to improve existing medical emergency services systems, and to evaluate pediatric emergency care data to improve future treatment efforts. Many emergency centers do not have all of the necessary supplies to treat pediatric emergencies, despite the fact that 18 percent of emergency department patients are children.

The legislation also increases the authorization for this program by 5 percent annually for the next 5 years starting at \$25 million in FY 2009. The bill also extends by 1 year the period that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services may award grants under the program. The bill had broad bipartisan support in the committee, and I would urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act. I am the lead sponsor of this legislation, along with Representative PETER T. KING on the other side of the aisle.

Today, the hospital emergency department is such a fundamental part of our health system that it's easy to forget that emergency medicine is a relatively new specialty. Emergency rooms were first established in the 1970s as medical personnel returned

from the Vietnam War. The skills developed to save soldiers' lives on the battlefield were being put to use saving victims of car crashes and other traumas.

However, the bodies of adult soldiers are very different from those of kids. By the early 1980s, doctors were seeing marked disparities in survival rates among adults and children with similar injuries. In fact, kids had twice the death rate in emergencies as adults.

In 1984, the Emergency Medical Services for Children program was first created. This unique act has driven fundamental changes in America's emergency medical system. Since it was established, child injury death rates have dropped 40 percent. The research that resulted from this legislation helped establish pediatric emergency medicine as its own specialty.

Program grants have provided seed money to every State and territory to help first responders and hospitals improve children's emergency care. In the mid-1980s, emergency personnel received little training in caring for children. Now, thanks to this program, paramedics can be exclusively trained, and their ambulances are stocked with the equipment and supplies needed by seriously injured kids.

Nowhere has this been more critical than in rural areas where the closest emergency room is often many miles from the scene of an accident. Getting it right for these small patients in the first critical minutes often means the difference between life and death.

Data collection and training seminars offered under this program, including from the Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center based in my district at the University of Utah, help ensure that best practices are developed and disseminated across the country.

The Emergency Medical Services for Children program's authorization expired in September 2005. In the summer of 2006, the Institutes of Medicine released a report which documented the value of this program. It noted the gaps that still remain in providing quality emergency care for children. And there is still a serious gap between the percentage of kids who end up in the emergency room and the percentage of emergency rooms staffed, trained and equipped to respond appropriately. The report said this program is “well positioned to assume a leadership role” in closing this gap.

I am pleased that H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, has bipartisan and bicameral support, including support from 75 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. The bill is endorsed by over 50 organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American Medical Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, and many more.

Madam Speaker, this legislation enhances the program by authorizing the appropriate funding needed to ensure

the program can drive improvements in emergency and disaster care for children.

Madam Speaker, I want to acknowledge the bipartisan nature in which this bill moved through our committee, working on both sides of the aisle within the Energy and Commerce Committee. We worked together to make this bill as good as it can be.

Madam Speaker, nobody likes to see a child get hurt. Together, we can assure that when that happens, children have the best possible chance for recovery and a good outcome. I strongly urge the adoption of this legislation.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY).

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I am also very pleased to speak in favor of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act.

I wanted to bring you just a little bit of perspective in terms of the difference this act has made in one young man's life, and I think it's reflective of a number of children who have been saved by having medical appropriate services for traumatic and life-threatening injuries of kids.

The Wakefield Act is called the Wakefield Act in recognition of a living memory of a family, the family of Tom Wakefield, who was involved in a horrible head-on traffic accident as they drove to the airport for a winter's vacation. A vehicle crossed the median and struck this vehicle head on, killing Tom and two of his children, one age three and one age seven. Twelve-year-old Lucas lost his arm in the accident and was almost lost as well.

Emergency responders on the scene and thereafter saved his life and the life of his mother, Loy. I know this family, and I know their survivors, and I care deeply about them. They have certainly impressed upon me, as they would impress upon any of you, just how vitally important it is that we equip our emergency response to deal with any who may be hurt. And the 40 percent improvement in saving lives of children since the act was initially passed in 1984 shows just how critically important this reauthorization is. I'm very pleased that the Commerce Committee has done the work to bring it to the floor today, and I am grateful for the chance to speak on the bill.

I was at an event just this weekend where Lucas, now fully recovering, adapted to his new circumstance. This is a young man that makes me very, very proud. And I believe the Wakefield Act, named in honor of his family, is a very appropriate commendation of the ongoing efforts to keep all our children safe.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. And following that eloquent testimony to the

value of this legislation, we can all recognize that H.R. 2464 is an important measure that will work toward ensuring the best emergency medical care for all children.

I again want to congratulate my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, JIM MATHESON, and all of those who have spoken today, including the ranking member of the subcommittee, for all the hard work and dedication to this important piece of legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of H.R. 2464.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise as a strong supporter of H.R. 2464, the Wakefield Act, which will reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program for an additional 4 years.

Since the program began in 1984, EMSC grants have helped all 50 States to better prepare their health systems to treat children in an emergency. The EMSC program has improved the availability of child-appropriate equipment in ambulances and emergency departments, supported hundreds of programs to prevent injuries, and provided thousands of hours of training to EMTs, paramedics, and other emergency medical care providers.

In my home State of New York, EMSC funds are going toward the development of a statewide, standardized system that recognizes hospitals capable of managing pediatric emergencies, both trauma and medical. This will enhance the State's ability to transfer injured children to the hospital best suited to their treatment. New York is also utilizing EMSC funds to ensure that all ambulances have the essential pediatric equipment and supplies for prehospital pediatric emergency care.

Across the country, EMSC is enabling State and local emergency care providers to better treat children. The projects funded under EMSC are vital for the safety and well-being of America's children and have saved countless lives throughout the program's existence. During a time when a terrorist attack or natural disaster may occur at any moment, it is essential that we ensure that we are adequately prepared to care for every infant, toddler, and child in an emergency situation.

I would like to thank Representative MATHESON for his hard work and continued leadership on this issue, and I urge you to support the Wakefield Act.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2464, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CYTOLOGY PROFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1237) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1237

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. REVISED STANDARDS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SCREENING AND EVALUATION OF GYNECOLOGIC CYTOLOGY PREPARATIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 353(f)(4)(B)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 263a(f)(4)(B)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iv) requirements that each clinical laboratory—

“(I) ensure that all individuals involved in screening and interpreting cytological preparations at the laboratory participate annually in a continuing medical education program in gynecologic cytology that—

“(aa) is approved by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Medical Education or the American Academy of Continuing Medical Education; and

“(bb) provides each individual participating in the program with gynecologic cytological preparations (in the form of referenced glass slides or equivalent technologies) designed to improve the locator, recognition, and interpretive skills of the individual;

“(II) maintain a record of the cytology continuing medical education program results for each individual involved in screening and interpreting cytological preparations at the laboratory; and

“(III) provide that the laboratory director shall take into account such results and other performance metrics in reviewing the performance of individuals involved in screening and interpreting cytological preparations at the laboratory and, when necessary, identify needs for remedial training or a corrective action plan to improve skills; and

“(IV) submit the continuing education program results for each individual and, if appropriate, plans for corrective action or remedial training in a timely manner to the laboratory's accrediting organization for purposes of review and on-going monitoring by the accrediting organization, including reviews of the continuing medical education program results during on-site inspections of the laboratory.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION; TERMINATION OF CURRENT PROGRAM OF INDIVIDUAL PROFICIENCY TESTING.*—

(1) *EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION.*—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) applies to gynecologic cytology services provided on or after the first day of the first calendar year beginning 1 year or more after the date of the enactment of this Act, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the “Secretary”) shall issue final regulations implementing such amendment not later than 270 days after such date of enactment.

(2) *TERMINATION OF CURRENT INDIVIDUAL TESTING PROGRAM.*—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall terminate the individual proficiency testing program established pursuant to section 353(f)(4)(B)(iv) of the Public

Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 263a(f)(4)(B)(iv)), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of subsection (a), at the end of the calendar year which includes the date of enactment of the amendment made by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1237, the Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2007. This legislation would modernize Federal regulations under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments Act of 1988, CLIA, that subject those who screen and interpret Pap tests to annual proficiency testing.

In 2005, CMS launched a program to begin testing pathologists and other laboratory professionals who performed Pap tests for proficiency. However, the program was designed using regulations written in 1992. In the 13 years between the regulation and the program's start, significant investments were made in the science and practice of Pap tests. Instead of relying on outdated practices, H.R. 1237 draws on the best that science and technology has to offer.

H.R. 1237 has 175 bipartisan cosponsors, including myself and every other female member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Additionally, this bill is supported by the College of American Pathologists, the American Medical Association, the American Clinical Laboratory Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives.

I want to commend my colleagues, Representative GORDON and Representative DEAL, for their hard work and commitment on this very important piece of legislation. This bill would improve the quality of women's health care. I strongly encourage all of our colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1237.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, too, rise in support of the Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act. I was a sponsor of legislation similar to this in the last Congress which passed the House, but unfortunately it was never signed into law. The bill revises na-

tional quality assurance standards of laboratories responsible for cytology services.

A few summers ago, I had the opportunity to visit a laboratory of a pathologist in my district, and I saw first hand the impact of this legislation. This bill is the result of actions taken in 2005 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to institute a proficiency testing program for individual pathologists.

□ 1530

Unfortunately, this program was based on regulations first issued in 1992 as a result of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988. Thus the cytology proficiency program is now very outdated and based on regulations from nearly 15 years ago.

The legislation would provide for an orderly phase-out of the current program and transition into a new program where all individuals involved in screening and interpreting Pap tests would participate in a continuing medical education program in gynecologic cytology. This educational approach will present participants with complex cases to keep their skills on the cutting edge and will provide individuals an opportunity to test their skills.

I believe this legislation would be an important step in the right direction and would modernize the current regulatory framework while providing quality assurance, as was required in the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. Unlike last Congress, I hope we will be able to get this legislation signed into law in order to modernize an outdated proficiency testing program for pathologists.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), one of the original cosponsors of the legislation this year, a medical doctor.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend and colleague from Georgia, Congressman DEAL, for his leadership on this issue and for the time today.

I also want to express my gratitude and thanks to Representative GORDON, who was extremely cooperative and helpful and productive throughout this entire process. I want to thank the American College of Pathology and all of the pathologists across the Nation who are working day in and day out to make certain that they provide quality care for the patients for whom they are charged.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a copy of an article by Dr. George Nagy that documents the dysfunctional federally mandated proficiency test in cytopathology.

THE DYSFUNCTIONAL FEDERALLY MANDATED PROFICIENCY TEST IN CYTOPATHOLOGY—A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Proficiency testing in cytopathology and in other disciplines should be based on firm

statistical and scientific foundations, because test theory in general is a heavily statistical subject. Statistical considerations have demonstrated that the design of "short" proficiency tests in cytopathology, including the current federally mandated test, fundamentally is unsound because of the lack of sufficient validity and reliability. Examinees too frequently are misclassified by such short-format tests: Competent examinees fail the test in surprisingly high numbers, whereas most of the examinees who have insufficient cytologic skills eventually pass the test after the allowed retakes. Only dichotomous tests are suitable for accurate computation of the effects of test design on reliability, but the statistical conclusions also are generalizable to non-dichotomous tests. In conclusion, the current federally mandated proficiency test cannot reliably measure the level of expertise of cytologists and, thus, cannot assure that only adequately skilled individuals evaluate Papanicolaou test samples. To render the test suitable for its intended purpose, the authors believe that complete redesign of the test, with the participation of experts in modern test theory, would be advisable.

Proficiency testing in cytopathology (PTC), which was established in the 1991 regulations to implement the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA'88), has only recently been enforced on a national scale. For more than a decade, during which logistical hurdles hampered the development of a national program for PTC, there was not much incentive to think about the value and potential of PTC or its theoretical background or to worry that the test design was so poor. In 2004, however, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced that a national PTC program developed by the Midwest Institute for Medical Education had been approved and that the regulations finally would be enforced on a national level. Suddenly, the shortcomings of the test were everyone's problem. What followed was a flurry of comments, articles, proposals, and Internet discussions about the PTC and its future. Although the testing has proceeded nationwide in conformity with the original regulations, the dust has not yet settled on the subject. The professional organizations agree that PTC, as prescribed in CLIA'88, is inadequate and is in great need of improvement if indeed it should remain in place at all. Regarding the projected revisions, it is a real impediment that some regulatory authorities that are in a position to make decisions about the implementation of PTC apparently are not familiar with most of the theoretical implications of test theory, which is an exceedingly complicated subject. So long as the test is mandatory for every practitioner of gynecologic cytopathology in the United States, it is in the best interest of all participants for PTC to become a scientifically well-founded, valid, and reliable quality assurance method. In the current article, we have attempted to shed light on some gaps in the knowledge about the theoretical underpinnings of PTC that seem to endure in the cytopathology literature.

TEST THEORY IS STATISTICAL

Test theory is a heavily statistical subject. Virtually all aspects of test theory have been investigated in depth almost exclusively by educators and psychologists, which is understandable, because testing is a central issue in their disciplines. Unfortunately, this valuable body of literature apparently has been disregarded completely by the federal authorities that are responsible for PTC regulations.

The statistical apparatus used in modern test theory is formidable. Many books and

articles written about the subject use highly sophisticated mathematical tools, including differential and integral calculus and matrix algebra. One of the reasons for the high degree of mathematization of test theory in psychology and education science is that these disciplines deal largely with intangibles, like motivation, intelligence, understanding, and adaptability, which are not directly measurable. Such entities must be studied indirectly, through measurements of other quantities. That is why psychological test theory introduced the concept of "constructs" that can substitute for and represent the kinds of abstract attributes mentioned above. Even so, the highly complicated mathematical and statistical tools that have been promoted in educational and psychological test theory fulfill mainly academic purposes. Most actual problems in everyday testing can be solved on a practical level that does not use highly complicated mathematical methods but, at the same time, does not disregard basic statistical principles.

TESTING IN THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGIC SCIENCES

Cytopathology, unlike educational science or psychology, is an applied natural science, and this is one of the reasons why PTC can be performed without the application of overly sophisticated mathematical tools. Interpretation of Papanicolaou smears, reproduction of cytologic diagnoses, and measurement of false-negative proportions, among others, are very complex tasks. By comparison, technically, it is a comparatively straightforward matter to evaluate the examinees' ability to assign diagnostic categories to cytologic changes observed on a slide or computer screen. Thus, abstract constructs hardly are needed in PTC. Nevertheless, a certain level of mathematical and statistical understanding by the designers of the test is crucial if a fair and scientifically valid system of PTC is to be established. Most pathologists, including ourselves, do not have rigorous training in statistics; therefore, if PTC is to continue, then the regulatory authorities ought to contract with experts in statistics and test theory who, through interaction with knowledgeable cytopathologists and cytotechnologists, would design an equitable and scientifically well-founded system for the nationwide PTC.

We do not mean to suggest that statisticians have not participated in the design of cytology testing programs. In fact, the College of American Pathologists' (CAP) Interlaboratory Comparison Program for Cervicovaginal Cytology was designed, implemented, and monitored with the extensive help of statistical expertise. However, this educational endeavor was not intended to be a PTC program as envisioned in the federal regulations. In fact, its original, scientifically and statistically supported structure ironically prevented its use as a PTC program because of the specific requirements of the federal regulations.

SHORT TESTS AND RELIABILITY

One of the central problems in the practice of PTC is reliability, and the reliability of PTC is related closely to the size of the test sets (the number of the test items or challenges in 1 test set). "Short" tests, which require the evaluation of relatively small numbers of slides, are characterized by a high misclassification rate. (The pervasive effect of sample size on the reliability of statistical inference is the reason why pollsters use large samples: The larger the sample, the narrower are the confidence limits in relative terms. The statistical estimates inferred from a single sizable sample that has been chosen by randomization will approach the true parameters of the population.)

Short tests will not prevent the frequent failure of competent examinees or the passing of examinees who have less than desirable skill levels. Already in 1991 one of us (G.K.N.), in a report that was written with D.C. Collins, emphasized that the expected misclassification rate of such short tests can be surprisingly high and that, in the case of dichotomous tests, this rate can be calculated (or approximated) through the use of the binomial theory of statistics. (A dichotomous test evaluates the responses to test items as "right" or "wrong," without using intermediate results or weighing of answers. The PTC system used in New York State for 36 years was dichotomous and so was the original Interlaboratory Comparison Program in Cervicovaginal Cytology. The CLIA '88-mandated PTC is not dichotomous.) This so-called "simple binomial error model" was described in test theory initially in the 1950s.

The results of the CLIA '88 mandated national PTC in 2005 dramatically demonstrated the effect of misclassification during short tests, as described previously. According to the data from the National Cytology Proficiency Testing Update, 9% of the examinees failed the test when they attempted it for the first time. However, when this group that supposedly had inferior skills retook the test, curiously, the failure rate for this second attempt was similar to that for the entire original group (10%). It appears that the cytologic skills among those examinees who had failed originally improved miraculously, allowing 90% of them to pass the examination, although all of them initially failed. It is hard to believe that a short remedial training between the first and second attempt could result in such an impressive real improvement. The only plausible scientific explanation is the well-known statistical phenomenon, the Galtonian "regression toward the mean." The majority of failures during the first attempt were the consequence of misclassification because of the poor validity and reliability of the short test and were not caused by the insufficient skills of those who failed. The failure rate in all groups of examinees is about the same on the first attempt and on the second attempt, and previous failures do not seem to matter much. Essentially, the results of the CLIA '88-mandated PTC mostly mirror the statistical chances and not the examinees' skills.

Of course, multiple other variables beyond regression toward the mean, including experience gained in the technique of the test, differences in the difficulty of particular test sets, and even increased skills after remedial training, etc. also may play a role in the improvement of test results at the second attempt for individual examinees. However, to date, we do not have any data or even a plausible explanation concerning how any of these other factors, with the exception of regression toward the mean, could produce such a consistent result.

THE SIMPLE BINOMIAL ERROR MODEL

Misclassification of examinees by any short test, including the CLIA '88-mandated PTC, can be demonstrated by means of an analogy. Strictly speaking, this analogy is applicable only to dichotomous testing systems. However, in this sense, dichotomous and non dichotomous systems are correspondent. For statistical or evaluation purposes, non dichotomous systems can be made dichotomous at any time, even after the tests have been carried out. For example, an answer can be evaluated as correct only if it falls into the appropriate single category ("success") and all other answers are rated as wrong ("failure"). Another solution to this problem in PTC would be to restrict the

number of diagnostic categories to 2, with 1 category, for instance, "negative for premalignant or malignant changes" and the second category "pre-malignant or malignant lesions are present." This is the approach used in the original CAP PAP program with its "100 series" and "200 series."

The CLIA '88 regulations concerning PTC, with their 4 diagnostic categories and complicated scoring system, do not fit into the dichotomous scheme. Despite this fact, the conclusions drawn by using the binomial error model regarding PTC are applicable to any short test to a large extent.

EXAMPLE OF SIMPLE BINOMIAL ERROR MODEL

For the purpose of illustration, let us suppose, that in a large population (for instance, that of an entire country), the results from a scrupulous statistical survey using many thousands of questionnaires and proper randomization indicate that the proportion of individuals who like to watch television (TV) is 90%. Because the survey is conducted in a scientific way and the sample size is very large, this result is considered highly accurate. The basic question on which the analogy with PTC will be based is, "What can we expect if we ask 10 randomly selected individuals in this population about their attitude toward TV?" The most probable result will be that, in this population, 9 of 10 individuals will like TV. However, it is reasonable to expect that, in many samples that consist of 10 individuals, all 10 individuals are TV fans; whereas, in other similar samples, there may be only 8, 7, or 6 such individuals. However, it is hardly conceivable that we will identify as few as only 1 or 2 fans in a sample of 10 individuals if the principle of random selection is followed.

Random selection is important. For example, a nonrandom sample, like one that consists exclusively of nuns in convents, would not yield a statistically valid reflection of the entire population; indeed, we may identify only 1 or 2 individuals in such a sample who like to watch TV. Exclusive selection of nuns or members of any other group with some special interest would not be compatible with the principle of randomness. However, to select a nun occasionally in a sample, with a frequency roughly corresponding to the proportion of nuns in the entire population, would be appropriate.

There is a statistical method that uses the so-called "binomial formula" for calculating the probability of encountering 10, 9, 8, 7, etc. TV fans in a sample of 10 individuals from our postulated population. (This method is not detailed in the current article, but an explanation can be found in any elementary statistical textbook). The probabilities even can be looked up in tables that are found at the end of statistical books. Under the circumstances outlined above (with a 90% proportion of TV fans in a sample size of 10 individuals), the probabilities of identifying 10, 9, 8, 7, and 6 TV fans in a random sample of 10 individuals are 0.35, 0.39, 0.19, 0.06, and 0.01, respectively.

The probability of identifying ≤ 5 TV fans under the above-described circumstances in a truly random sample of 10 individuals is exceedingly small. The succession of numbers described above represents a "probability distribution," which can be observed in a histogram. This distribution is interpreted as follows: If, from this very large population, we take numerous random samples, each consisting of 10 individuals, and ask about their preferences for TV; then we will find that 35% of the samples would include 10 fans, 39% of the samples would include 9 fans, 19% of the samples would include 8 fans, and so on.

If we change the size of the sample, then the magnitudes of the single probabilities

and their distribution also will change and, along with them, the probability distribution. If we choose sample sizes of 100 individuals instead of 10, then the probabilities will be clustered much more tightly around the value of 90% than was the case in the smaller samples. The larger the size of the sample, the more reliable is the estimation; in other words, the observed value in every sample approaches the real population parameter. It is virtually unimaginable that there will be only 50 or 60 TV fans among 100 randomly selected individuals from this population. (Distribution data for such large samples are not provided even in the tables of larger statistical reference books: They are not needed, because the probability distribution for large samples can be found by the so-called "normal approximation of the binomial distribution." To perform this method is mathematically simple, but the results may be slightly inaccurate. There are complex Web-based Internet tools, however, that calculate these probabilities very accurately.) Of course this holds true only if the randomness principle is strictly observed.

How can we apply the reasoning described above to the issue of sample sizes in PTC? Fortunately, the results of these binomial calculations can be generalized. The reason why we can do this is that, if the "experiment" qualifies as binomial, then the specifics of the experiment, whether they are related to liking TV or to success in PTC, have no bearing on the values of the probabilities or on the probability distribution.

TRUE SCORES

At this point, we need to review the term "true score," a concept that is used widely in modern test theory. The true score of a hypothetical examinee is defined as the average of the observed or measured scores that would be obtained over an infinite number of repeated testing by the same test, provided that the examinee's skills remain indefinitely stable. For actual examinees, the true score can be estimated with a small error margin, but its exact value is essentially unknowable. For instance, if a cytologist screens 100,000 cervical smears, and if his or her diagnoses are correct 98,000 times, then the approximation of his or her true score is 0.98. Because the accurate determination of the true score would require an infinite number of repeat testing, which is not feasible, this true score of 0.98 remains an approximation. Obviously, we can be rather sure that, when the same individual screens the next 100,000 preparations, the approximation of his or her true score will not remain the same: The chances of this are infinitesimally small. The estimate of the true score will almost certainly change slightly, for instance to 0.97 or to 0.99, and so on, for each successive trial.

It has to be emphasized that assignment of an exact "true score" to a cytologist is somewhat arbitrary for further reasons. It cannot be expected that anybody's cytologic skills will remain invariant for a prolonged time. We can hope, of course, that the professional prowess of cytologists improves over time. Furthermore, everybody who has ever screened cytology specimens knows that screening performance depends on many factors, some of which are extraneous to the level of cytology skills. On a "good" day, a cytologist may function on a 0.98 score level; whereas, on a different, "bad" day, he or she might be less "proficient." Even his or her experience with particular kinds of cytologic presentations on the previous day, for example, having seen an unusual presentation of high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion on a quality-assurance review, could affect decision-making on the current day. Of course, these and other psychological vari-

ables (eg, the effects of anxiety or tiredness during tests or routine work) cannot be factored into the statistical considerations. Nagy and Collins, describing this concept, used the term "competence level" instead of "true score" in their 1991 article.

Direct measurement of the true score is not possible. What we have after an evaluation of test results is the "observed score," which is related to the true score but is not identical to it. It can be considered an estimate of the true score.

COMPARISON OF TV PREFERENCE AND PTC RESULTS

TV preference and PTC results can be compared as follows: The values derived by the binomial formula are determined only by the number of trials and the probability of success. If the "experiment" qualifies as binomial, then the specifics of the experiment have no bearing on the numerical results. (In statistical parlance, any methods or procedures that yield raw data are called experiments.) In our TV example, the number of trials (the sample size) is 10, and the probability of success is 0.9. These 2 data are sufficient to calculate the probability distribution for this specific case. Let us consider now an example of PTC in which these specifics are the same as described above. The PTC design prescribes 10 slide test sets (number of trials). A cytologist who performs routine screening and customarily renders accurate diagnoses 9000 times among 10,000 screened slides has an approximate true score of 0.9. (In other words, the probability of success is 0.9.) When this cytologist attempts to pass this particular PTC, then the probability distribution of the possible correct answers will be identical to the probability distribution observed in the TV example, because the specifics of the TV experiments are the same. If this hypothetical cytologist attempts the test many times, then he or she will read 10 slides correctly in 35% of the tests, 9 slides correctly in 39% of the tests, and so on. The numerical values in the 2 experiments are identical.

We also should note that, if an examinee reads 10 slides or 9 slides correctly, which happens in 74% of events under the circumstances described above, then he or she passes the test. However, this individual, who essentially has an adequate true score, will fail a dichotomous PTC 26% of the time because of the low validity and reliability of the test. The phenomenon of failure in this case can be called "type 1 error." (The null hypothesis is that "the cytoscreener is competent.") A valid and reliable test is expected to pass virtually all cytoscreeners with true scores on the 0.9 level; however, any dichotomous test that consists of 10 slides or challenges will misclassify approximately 26% of such individuals. It is obvious that this test does not really meet the expectation to determine the competence of an examinee who had a true score of 0.9.

It needs to be reiterated here that binomial calculations can be performed only for dichotomous tests. The probabilities for some well ordered, nondichotomous tests may be calculated by the use of more complicated multinomial assessments.

LIMITATIONS OF THE SIMPLE BINOMIAL ERROR MODEL

The binomial error model provides only a rough appraisal of the statistical factors that need to be taken into account in the design of PTC. One of the drawbacks of the model, as mentioned above, is that it is applicable only to dichotomous testing systems. However, the simplicity, transparency, and mathematical calculability of dichotomous setups counterbalance every other consideration. The dichotomous test design makes it possible to assess the impact of test

set size on test validity and reliability and to calculate confidence intervals. Thus, the use of a dichotomous test would confer greater predictability and practicability to PTC. The effects on test validity and reliability of a haphazard design, like the CLIA'88-mandated PTC, hardly are calculable by scientific-statistical means. We do not state that dichotomous designs would solve every problem inherent in every type of test, including PTC. However, given that all other conditions of the testing are equal, dichotomous tests have insurmountable advantages over nondichotomous tests.

SIZE OF TEST SETS AND RATE OF MISCLASSIFICATION

Figures (not shown) illustrate the probability distributions of correct diagnoses for variable test set sizes and for examinees with different theoretical "true scores." An ideal and flawless PTC would fail all examinees with true scores of 0.85, but no test design can fulfill such requirements. The reliability of the tests improves, however, as the test sets get larger. For examinees with true scores of 0.85 or 0.8, the accuracy of the test increases in parallel with the increasing size of the test sets. (The failure rates become larger for larger test sets.)

Visualization of the effect of sample size on misclassification also is possible by tabulation. The more slides the test set contains, the lower the misclassification rate. There appear to be anomalies at the set sizes of 9 and 19, in which the misclassification rate decreases for examinees with low true scores and increases for the more competent examinees. A test set that consists of 9 or 19 slides would be a very impractical choice. If the passing level is set at 90% (eg, 9 correct answers for 10 slides in dichotomous tests), as it is the general practice for PTCs, then 1 error is allowed for a 10-slide set. Under these circumstances, to pass a test based on 9-slide sets with a 90% passing grade would be incomparably more difficult than to pass a test based on a 10-slide set, because a single mistake would mean an error >10% and, consequently, a failure. The situation is similar for 19- or 29-slide sets. The greater grade of difficulty with a 9-slide test set is reflected in the smaller passing rates for both competent and less competent examinees. (This circumstance, paradoxically, improves the accuracy of the test for the participants with low true scores.) For these reasons, if the passing level is set at 90%, then only decimal-based test set sizes (10, 20, 30, etc. slides or challenges) should be used.

Another observable phenomenon is the "law of diminishing returns," in which, as the number of slides in the test sets is increased, the misclassification rates decrease. However, the rate of decrease is not level but trails off with increasingly larger set sizes. For instance, misclassification of examinees with a true score of 0.8 is almost halved, from 38% to 20%, when the number of slides in the sets increases from 10 to 20. The next step, from a 20-slide set to a 30-slide set, is accompanied by a smaller relative improvement, and so on.

An important conclusion that can be drawn is that, when the number of slides is increased in the test sets, the decrease in the misclassification rate is more precipitous if the true score is 0.8 or 0.85, ie, on the side of the table for less competent examinees, than if the true score is 0.95. From our viewpoint, this is an advantage. The basic purpose of PTC is not the confirmation of the proficiency of the average cytologist who performs well but the identification of individuals who may have problems with expertise and need remediation. The type 1 error, the failure of competent examinees, is less consequential than the type 2 error, the passing

of less competent examinees. The simple binomial model is more suitable to investigate the latter than the former in the set-size ranges that are prevalent in the practice of PTC.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE MINIMAL NUMBER OF TEST SLIDES IN TEST SETS?

The question about the minimal number of test slides in test sets could be formulated more accurately as follows: What should be the minimal number of test slides so that we can be 90% confident that the test result is accurate? This type of calculation is relatively simple to perform if the test is dichotomous. In our calculations, we assumed a dichotomous test and 90% as the passing level for the observed score.

The minimum necessary number of test slides depends to a large extent on the competence of the individual examinee. For a cytologist with very poor skills, a relatively small test set would suffice. However, the discriminatory power of PTC decreases at the point where the skills of the examinee are almost satisfactory but still insufficient. Therefore, for such an individual, the test sets should be much larger if we want 90% confidence. It would be unrealistic to expect any test to differentiate easily between an "incompetent" cytologist whose true score is 0.89 and a "competent" cytologist with a true score of 0.9.

Just to illustrate a possible solution, we calculated the minimal size of test sets for examinees who had a true score of 0.8. We wanted to have 90% confidence in the accuracy of the test result. (This means that at least 90% of examinees with a true score of 0.8 will fail the test if the test set contains the calculated number of test slides.) Similar calculations were performed for examinees who had a true score of 0.85.

For the calculation, we used the algorithm written by the Vassar Education Department, which is in the public domain and may be found on the Internet. According to the results, a 40-slide set would provide >90% confidence (exactly, 92.409% confidence) in the accuracy of the results for examinees with a true score of 0.8. A 30-slide set would provide only an 87.729% confidence level for these individuals.

For examinees with a true score of 0.85, much larger test sets would be necessary to provide 90% confidence in the results. A test set consisting of 90 slides would provide 88.468% confidence, and only the use of a 100-slide test set would ensure >90% confidence (exactly, 90.055 confidence) in the test results. The extent of the confidence intervals can be easily visualized. Lord et al. presented the 90% confidence intervals for a 30-item dichotomous test on different true score levels.

The numbers provided above are given only for illustrative purposes. It is obvious that test sets consisting of 100 slides, or even 40 slides, could not be used under the generally accepted conditions of PTC. Evidently, only a board-type, full-day, or 2-day-long examination would satisfy the statistical requirements for an accurate and equitable test. Conversely, because such a board-type test would determine the capabilities of the examinees with a high level of accuracy, it would become safe to increase the intertest interval to 8 years or 10 years.

However, if most aspects of the current federal regulations for PTC remain in force—in other words, if a highly inaccurate and unreliable test also will be used in the future—then it will not be advisable to increase the yearly interval between tests very much. The main reason for this is that short tests are incapable of accurately identifying examinees with low professional skills. Competent examinees who fail the test (type 1

error) pass the test on the second or third attempt with a high probability. Most of these valuable professionals are not harmed much beyond the inconvenience of repeated testing. In contrast, examinees with questionable skills who pass the test (type 2 error) do not have to submit to repeat testing, and they continue to screen patient slides without censure at least until the next test. Of course, it may be argued that, if the test were totally useless, then increasing the interval between test events would not have any effect on public health. However, if the test were totally useless, then the only honest course to follow would be the complete abolishment of PTC. In our opinion, the test in its present form is not totally useless. The current test will force a certain number of cytologists with very poor professional skills (regardless of their low proportion in the entire cytopathology community) to recognize their deficiencies, to participate in remediation(s), and at least to attempt to improve their professional skills. However, as made obvious in the discussion above, the federally mandated PTC in its current form is not able to identify all cytologists with very poor skills. Allowing such individuals, unidentified by the test, to continue screening constitutes a certain danger for the public. If we try to make the current PTC useful at least to some degree, then we should not increase the time interval between tests to 3 or 4 years.

THE HIGH PASSING RATE OF LESS SKILLED PROFESSIONALS IN SHORT TESTS

Through the use of the simple binomial model, it also is possible to calculate the number of less than competent individuals who eventually will pass the short tests after repeated attempts. For instance, among 100 examinees who have true scores in the less competent range of 0.85, 54 individuals will pass a dichotomous test that consists of 10 test slides on the first attempt. The remaining 46 examinees will attempt the test a second time, and 54% of them (ie, 25 individuals) will pass on this second try. The remaining 21 examinees will attempt the test a third time, and 54% of them (ie, 11 individuals) will pass. In summary, $54 + 25 + 11 = 90$ of these less-skilled examinees among 100 who were supposed to be identified by the system will avoid serious consequences if a short, 10-slide-based dichotomous test with 3 permitted retakes is used.

A similar calculation illustrates that, among 100 examinees with true scores of 0.8, 76 individuals eventually will pass, if 3 attempts are allowed, in a 10 slide-set, dichotomous PTC system.

These numbers indicate all too clearly the utter uselessness of short dichotomous PTCs in terms of capability to identify less skilled cytologists. However, we do not go so far as to declare that short PTC systems, dichotomous or nondichotomous, are totally lacking in utility. Even a short test generates interest, creates opportunity for self-assessment, and possibly highlights deficiencies in some areas in the professional knowledge of the individual cytologist. This effect should be perceived as beneficial. Our personal experience indicates that very short educational tests, although they may not be suitable in themselves as statistical assessments of professional knowledge of individuals, almost always provide a welcome impetus for continuing education. A short PTC, as an educational experience, may remain a valuable quality-assurance method, although it is limited in scope. In this regard, other valuable educational activities, such as the CAP Pap program, have their full justification. However, we in the cytopathology community should persevere in our attempts to prevent the deleterious situation in which PTC

remains an expensive and rather meaningless ritual; a test that, on repeated attempts, can be passed by virtually all competent cytologists, as expected, and also by a very high percentage of those who would be adjudged incompetent if a more reliable testing process were available.

STATISTICS ARE NOT EVERYTHING

A more intensive integration of statistical principles would be needed to make the current design of PTC more functional. However, we do not believe that, even if statistical principles were applied optimally to PTC, all of the inherent problems of testing could be eliminated. There are many non-statistical facets of all tests, including PTC. For instance, because, in cytopathology, we are confronted with the morphologic manifestations of extremely complicated biologic systems, total equivalence in the difficulty of test challenges (that is, absolute conformity of corresponding slides in different test sets) cannot be achieved. Perhaps this can be overcome with computerized digital tests to some extent in the future.

LESSONS FROM THE SIMPLE MODEL OF DICHOTOMOUS PTC THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE DYSFUNCTIONAL FEDERAL DESIGN

We emphasize once more that the discussions and calculations above are based on the relatively simple model of dichotomous proficiency testing. The current CLIA'88-mandated test, with its elaborate scoring system and multiple diagnostic categories, is much more complicated; therefore, our conclusions cannot be transferred to it in any straightforward or easy way. The proportions of expected misclassification rates, the widths of confidence intervals, and other statistical parameters in nondichotomous systems cannot be calculated accurately by using the simple binomial model. In other words, the generalizability ("external validity") of the foregoing statistical considerations to nondichotomous systems could be questioned. The Galtonian regression toward the mean in the results of the first year of the CLIA'88-mandated test, however, provides indirect evidence that misclassification by the federal test is substantial, and its magnitude is in the range indicated by the simple binomial model. Therefore, it is plausible that the conclusions of the statistical considerations outlined above are applicable to the federally mandated PTC to a large extent.

We emphasize that the theoretical underpinnings of PTC are much more complex than may be perceived readily. We hope that, if mandatory, nationwide PTC remains in any form, then it is redesigned to be a valid and reliable proficiency testing system or possibly a board-type examination. We believe that accomplishing this would require the engagement of both cytologists and experts who are well versed in the practical and theoretical aspects of modern test theory. This does not mean that more descriptive data from the existing results of the CLIA'88-mandated PTC should be collected. On the contrary, because the design of the CLIA'88-mandated test is flawed, little true insight may be gained by amassing and further studying descriptive data from such a source. Rather, we advocate the careful application of more inferential or theoretical statistics, which would allow a fairer conceptual design of PTC while leaving the final decisions in the hands of expert cytopathologists and cytotechnologists who are familiar the wider aspects of our difficult discipline.

I also want to thank all of the members of the Women's Caucus. Without their wonderful support, I don't know where we would be at this point. And I thank, once again, Congressman DEAL,

the ranking member of the subcommittee; Chairman PALLONE and Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON.

Madam Speaker, as has been described by my colleagues, in 1998 the CLIA, or the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, went into effect. The law was passed. And it took them 4 years for the provision to evaluate the performance of laboratories interpreting Pap tests or Pap smears to be put into law or to have the rule finalized by Health and Human Services. The problem is that program then sat on the shelf for 13 years. So in 2005 the rules were then put into effect and enforced. And therein lies the program.

This program currently in place is based upon more than a decade old, even 15, 16 years old, 1992, regulatory approach that doesn't reflect the modern science and real-world laboratory practice. It does little to help patients or physicians charged with caring for them. The approach of relying on government-driven individual proficiency testing to evaluate the quality of Pap smear interpretations is both outdated and not cost effective.

So the solution is within the bill that we have before us today, H.R. 1237. There's a companion bill, Madam Speaker, over in the Senate, S. 2510, and I'm hopeful, as Congressman DEAL said, that we will be able to get this legislation through both Chambers during this session.

The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act modifies CLIA by suspending the current regulation that subjects pathologists and others who screen for cervical cancer to annual proficiency testing and instead requires annual continuing medical education that would provide laboratory professionals opportunities to improve their screening and interpretation skills in a non-punitive environment. The bill allows for an orderly phase-out of the current program and establishes reasonable timelines for the implementation of the new program. The educational approach is consistent with that included in the Mammography Quality Standards Act, a program that is remarkably effective. So the bill would ensure continuing education keeps up with the technology in the field and that clinicians are using day after day after day to help save lives of Americans all across our Nation. This is a major move in the right direction.

I want to thank once again all of those involved and encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time and again would like to commend my colleagues Representative GORDON and Representative DEAL and also the Women's Cau-

cus for their much hard work and commitment on this important piece of legislation.

This bill would improve the quality of women's health care, and I strongly encourage all of our colleagues to join in support of H.R. 1237.

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1237, the Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act. I am pleased to see that the House will vote today on revamping a 16-year-old CMS regulation—from 1992—that calls for a Federal program to test the proficiency of individual laboratory professionals who read Pap tests.

I first became aware of the need to revisit this outdated regulation several years ago, in 2005, when CMS first began implementation of the program long after it was first put on the books. Congress knows well that promulgating regulations and implementation can do more harm than good.

The current oversight model that CMS is using is intended to help ensure that Pap tests are being read accurately—to improve public health. However, the approach established more than a decade ago, and being used today, doesn't necessarily protect women, improve quality or further our fight against cervical cancer.

H.R. 1237 provides an alternative. It redirects the current "testing" scheme to require pathologists and other lab technicians who read Pap tests to participate in an annual continuing medical education, CME program where their skills would be assessed and where the latest advances in Pap test practice could be shared. It would complement extensive Pap test quality controls that labs must already meet under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act. The Mammography Quality Standards Act includes a similar CME approach.

I've talked to pathologists in my district to better understand what it would take to add value to their profession, rather than just more red tape. Dr. Jared Schwartz was one of those who educated me and lent his expertise. He is now serving as president of the College of American Pathologists and is a strong advocate for ensuring access to Pap tests for all women. The laboratory and medical community support this bill, and I'm pleased to support it.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1237, the Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2007. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation, which enhances women's health by establishing a continuing medical education requirement for pathologists and laboratory professionals who examine Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer.

I recently toured Sarasota Pathology and heard directly from my constituents about the importance of this bill and its potential to help save lives.

This legislation amends the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments of 1988, CLIA, which mandated a cytology proficiency test to be administered by the Federal Government. However, the program lay inactive until 2005, which, because of scientific advancements makes the test obsolete and out of date.

Unlike the current CLIA testing model, H.R. 1237, with its annual continuing medical education requirement, will provide the means to

increase the skills necessary to identify potential cervical cancer, and will keep pace with new science.

H.R. 1237 is modeled after the Mammography Quality Standards Act, MQSA, which was passed in 1992. That bill ensured women would have access to quality mammography procedures. This bill requires similar educational testing for pathologists.

The American Medical Association, the College of OB/GYNs, the College of American Pathologists, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, the College of Nurse Midwives, and the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation endorse the bill.

Finally, I want to mention that the Congressional Budget Office has determined that it will not cost the Federal Government any additional expenditure.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of a bill that will greatly improve the quality of women's health care in America.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1237, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAFETY OF SENIORS ACT OF 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 845) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 845

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Safety of Seniors Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 393B (as added by section 1401 of Public Law 106-386) as section 393C and transferring such section so that it appears after section 393B (as added by section 1301 of Public Law 106-310); and

(2) by inserting after section 393C (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"SEC. 393D. PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

"(a) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Secretary may—

"(1) oversee and support a national education campaign to be carried out by a non-profit organization with experience in designing and implementing national injury prevention programs, that is directed principally to older adults, their families, and

health care providers, and that focuses on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls; and

“(2) award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, for the purpose of organizing State-level coalitions of appropriate State and local agencies, safety, health, senior citizen, and other organizations to design and carry out local education campaigns, focusing on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls.

“(b) RESEARCH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

“(A) conduct and support research to—

“(i) improve the identification of older adults who have a high risk of falling;

“(ii) improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk and protective factors;

“(iii) design, implement, and evaluate the most effective fall prevention interventions;

“(iv) improve strategies that are proven to be effective in reducing falls by tailoring these strategies to specific populations of older adults;

“(v) conduct research in order to maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions;

“(vi) intensify proven interventions to prevent falls among older adults;

“(vii) improve the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of elderly fall victims and older adults at high risk for falls; and

“(viii) assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings;

“(B) conduct research concerning barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the prevention of falls among older adults;

“(C) conduct research to develop, implement, and evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among high-risk older adults living in communities and long-term care and assisted living facilities; and

“(D) evaluate the effectiveness of community programs designed to prevent falls among older adults.

“(2) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary, either directly or through awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, may provide professional education for physicians and allied health professionals, and aging service providers in fall prevention, evaluation, and management.

“(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary may carry out the following:

“(1) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be carried out by qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, in the following areas:

“(A) A multistate demonstration project assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screening and referral programs.

“(B) Programs designed for community-dwelling older adults that utilize multi-component fall intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and reduction when possible, vision enhancement, and home modification strategies.

“(C) Programs that are targeted to new fall victims who are at a high risk for second falls and which are designed to maximize independence and quality of life for older adults, particularly those older adults with functional limitations.

“(D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop technologies to pre-

vent falls among older adults and prevent or reduce injuries if falls occur.

“(2)(A) Award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, to design, implement, and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies in residential and institutional settings.

“(B) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to 1 or more qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, in order to carry out a multistate demonstration project to implement and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies designed for single and multifamily residential settings with high concentrations of older adults, including—

“(i) identifying high-risk populations;

“(ii) evaluating residential facilities;

“(iii) conducting screening to identify high-risk individuals;

“(iv) providing fall assessment and risk reduction interventions and counseling;

“(v) coordinating services with health care and social service providers; and

“(vi) coordinating post-fall treatment and rehabilitation.

“(3) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of the demonstration projects described in this subsection.

“(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary may give priority to entities that explore the use of cost-sharing with respect to activities funded under the grant, contract, or agreement to ensure the institutional commitment of the recipients of such assistance to the projects funded under the grant, contract, or agreement. Such non-Federal cost sharing contributions may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

“(e) STUDY OF EFFECTS OF FALLS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct a review of the effects of falls on health care costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the most effective strategies for reducing health care costs associated with falls.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Secretary conducts the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007, submit to Congress a report describing the findings of the Secretary in conducting such review.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 845, the Safety of Seniors Act.

Falls represent a serious health risk for millions of older Americans. In the United States, one of every three persons age 65 or older falls each year. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths and the most common cause of injuries and hospital admissions for trauma in older adults.

Senate bill 845 seeks to address the growing problem of falling and fall-related injuries among older adults. This legislation would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee and support national and local education campaigns focused on reducing falls and preventing repeated falls among older adults. It is important to note that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce held a markup of the House companion legislation H.R. 3701, the Keeping Seniors Safe From Falls Act, which was introduced by Health Subcommittee Chairman FRANK PALLONE. The committee amended H.R. 3701 to ensure that it was identical to Senate bill 845, which has already passed the Senate by unanimous consent. So I want to commend my good friend FRANK PALLONE for his hard work and commitment on this important piece of legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate bill 845.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, my wife and I had the opportunity to take care of my mother and her parents in their later years for a period of about 8½ years prior to their passage some 1½ years ago. We were always aware of the danger that was posed by falls, and certainly falls are one of the main causes of injuries and hospital admissions for senior adults.

S. 845, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2008, tries to address this danger by focusing attention on preventing falls among senior citizens and conducting research to evaluate the cause of falls among our older adults. The legislation provides the Secretary with discretion to implement a national education campaign, and, also, it gives him authority to evaluate the effectiveness of community programs designed to prevent falls. It also gives the Secretary the ability to create demonstration projects focused on evaluating and preventing falls in senior citizens.

I urge the adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I support the passage of Senate bill 845, which seeks to address the growing problem of falls and fall-related injuries among older adults.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, many of us have elder parents, relatives, neighbors or colleagues who have experienced an unnecessary fall. Recently, Nancy Reagan and Senator ROBERT BYRD have both suffered from falls that have caused them to be hospitalized.

Falls among elderly Americans in fact are so commonplace that one in three Americans over the age of 65 each year experiences a debilitating fall. As a result, it is the leading cause of injury-related deaths for older Americans.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that fall-related medical expenses cost Americans more than \$20 billion annually. Projections are that those expenses will climb to more than \$40 billion over the next 15 years, posing additional burdens on already strapped Medicare and Medicaid funding.

Effective demonstration tests and comprehensive public information and education campaigns can help reduce and mitigate these avoidable and frequently disabling injuries.

To that end, I introduced H.R. 3701, the "Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act of 2007" with my good friend Representative RALPH HALL, which is the House companion to S. 845, the bill we are debating today. If enacted, this legislation would launch a comprehensive preventive care program and educational campaign to reduce the number and severity of falls to the elderly.

In closing I want to acknowledge all the hard work that went into this bill, including the work of my colleagues both here in the House and the Senate, as well as the Falls Free Coalition working group, which has been advocating for this legislation for sometime.

Madam Speaker, falls among the elderly are clearly an issue that affect and potentially imperil us all. This legislation offers a national approach to reducing these tragic events I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 845.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FOOD ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2063) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2063

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Food allergy is an increasing food safety and public health concern in the United States, especially among students.

(2) Peanut allergy doubled among children from 1997 to 2002.

(3) In a 2004 survey of 400 elementary school nurses, 37 percent reported having at least 10 students with severe food allergies and 62 percent reported having at least 5.

(4) Forty-four percent of the elementary school nurses surveyed reported that the number of students in their school with food allergy had increased over the past 5 years, while only 2 percent reported a decrease.

(5) In a 2001 study of 32 fatal food-allergy induced anaphylactic reactions (the largest study of its kind to date), more than half (53 percent) of the individuals were aged 18 or younger.

(6) Eight foods account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soy.

(7) Currently, there is no cure for food allergies; strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent a reaction.

(8) Anaphylaxis is a systemic allergic reaction that can kill within minutes.

(9) Food-allergic reactions are the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting, accounting for an estimated 30,000 emergency room visits, 2,000 hospitalizations, and 150 to 200 deaths each year in the United States.

(10) Fatalities from anaphylaxis are associated with a delay in the administration of epinephrine (adrenaline), or when epinephrine was not administered at all. In a study of 13 food allergy-induced anaphylactic reactions in school-age children (6 fatal and 7 near fatal), only 2 of the children who died received epinephrine within 1 hour of ingesting the allergen, and all but 1 of the children who survived received epinephrine within 30 minutes.

(11) The importance of managing life-threatening food allergies in the school setting has been recognized by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and the National Association of School Nurses.

(12) There are no Federal guidelines concerning the management of life-threatening food allergies in the school setting.

(13) Three-quarters of the elementary school nurses surveyed reported developing their own training guidelines.

(14) Relatively few schools actually employ a full-time school nurse. Many are forced to cover more than 1 school, and are often in charge of hundreds if not thousands of students.

(15) Parents of students with severe food allergies often face entirely different food allergy management approaches when their students change schools or school districts.

(16) In a study of food allergy reactions in schools and day-care settings, delays in treatment were attributed to a failure to follow emergency plans, calling parents instead of administering emergency medications, and an inability to administer epinephrine.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms "local educational agency", "secondary school", and "elementary school" have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) SCHOOL.—The term "school" includes public—

- (A) kindergartens;
- (B) elementary schools; and
- (C) secondary schools.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY FOOD ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS MANAGEMENT POLICY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a policy to be used on a voluntary basis to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools; and

(2) make such policy available to local educational agencies and other interested individuals and entities, including licensed child care providers, preschool programs, and Head Start, to be implemented on a voluntary basis only.

(b) CONTENTS.—The voluntary policy developed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall contain guidelines that address each of the following:

(1) Parental obligation to provide the school, prior to the start of every school year, with—

(A) documentation from the student's physician or nurse—

(i) supporting a diagnosis of food allergy and the risk of anaphylaxis;

(ii) identifying any food to which the student is allergic;

(iii) describing, if appropriate, any prior history of anaphylaxis;

(iv) listing any medication prescribed for the student for the treatment of anaphylaxis;

(v) detailing emergency treatment procedures in the event of a reaction;

(vi) listing the signs and symptoms of a reaction; and

(vii) assessing the student's readiness for self-administration of prescription medication; and

(B) a list of substitute meals that may be offered to the student by school food service personnel.

(2) The creation and maintenance of an individual health care plan tailored to the needs of each student with a documented risk for anaphylaxis, including any procedures for the self-administration of medication by such students in instances where—

(A) the students are capable of self-administering medication; and

(B) such administration is not prohibited by State law.

(3) Communication strategies between individual schools and local providers of emergency medical services, including appropriate instructions for emergency medical response.

(4) Strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas such as cafeterias.

(5) The dissemination of information on life-threatening food allergies to school staff, parents, and students, if appropriate by law.

(6) Food allergy management training of school personnel who regularly come into contact with students with life-threatening food allergies.

(7) The authorization and training of school personnel to administer epinephrine when the school nurse is not immediately available.

(8) The timely accessibility of epinephrine by school personnel when the nurse is not immediately available.

(9) Extracurricular programs such as non-academic outings and field trips, before- and after-school programs, and school-sponsored programs held on weekends that are addressed in the individual health care plan.

(10) The collection and publication of data for each administration of epinephrine to a student at risk for anaphylaxis.

(c) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this Act or the policy developed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be construed to preempt State law, including any State law regarding whether students at risk for anaphylaxis may self-administer medication.

SEC. 5. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES.

The policy developed by the Secretary under section 4(a) and the food allergy management guidelines contained in such policy are voluntary. Nothing in this Act or the policy developed by the Secretary under section 4(a) shall be

construed to require a local educational agency or school to implement such policy or guidelines.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2063, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2008.

This legislation would provide schools with uniform guidance on how to create appropriate management and emergency plans for children with food allergies.

I was a school nurse, again, for 20 years, and I know so well the challenges confronting educators when working to ensure that their students are adequately cared for. And with the current shortage of school nurses, it is more important than ever that we assist local educational agencies in being prepared to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in school.

The risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting if schools will work with students, parents, nurses, and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

I want to commend my good friend from New York NITA LOWEY for her tireless work on this important bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 2063.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I do rise in support of H.R. 2063, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2008.

Many children face life-threatening food allergies which dramatically impact their lifestyles and make an ordinarily safe place like a school cafeteria a place filled with potential dangers. However, despite this threat and the growing prevalence of these food allergies, many schools struggle to establish effective guidelines to protect the health and well-being of students with food allergies.

I had the occasion this past year to visit with neighbors and constituents of mine whose children have these kind of allergies, one of the children having a very severe food allergy problem. It is truly remarkable the degree of care that children and parents must take

and the life-changing events that occur as a result of these food allergies.

This legislation seeks to address this problem by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to establish voluntary guidelines and policies to manage the risks of food allergy in a school setting. This policy will take into account the important role played by parents and the individual needs of students with differing allergies. Hopefully, this legislation will provide important Federal guidelines, which, when implemented, will provide peace of mind for parents of children with food allergies when they send their children to school every day.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the author of the bill, our good friend and colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2063, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act.

And I want to thank my good friend Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS and Congressman DEAL for your support on this very important legislation.

More than 11 million Americans suffer from food allergies. Each year several hundred of these individuals die and an estimated 30,000 receive life-saving treatments in emergency rooms due to food-induced anaphylaxis. Despite the critical nature of these allergies, the only way to prevent dangerous reactions is to avoid all foods that contain allergy-inducing ingredients. And while there have been vast improvements in food labeling, this is still easier said than done, particularly for millions of children in school-based settings.

□ 1545

Unfortunately, we have a patchwork of policies, regulations and State laws to address this problem. Food allergies and the risk of anaphylaxis are simply too dangerous to not have a more uniform approach to safety.

The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act, which I first introduced in 2005, would require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide schools across the country with uniform guidance on how to create management and emergency plans for students with food allergies. These guidelines, which will be developed in consultation with the country's leading scientists and public health officials, will help schools tailor management plans to their students' individual needs, while also giving them confidence that the measures they are taking have the stamp of approval from the Federal Government. These guidelines are not only critically important in keeping children safe throughout the school day, but in ensuring that there is uniformity in how schools address this growing problem.

With the enactment of this legislation, parents will no longer have to

worry about their children's safety if they move to a different school district or State. And most importantly, parents will no longer be charged with creating these policies on their own. This commonsense legislation will give schools, teachers and parents the information they need to keep food-allergic children safer and deserves the support of every one of my colleagues.

I would like to thank Senator DODD, who is pushing a similar bill in the Senate, Leader HOYER and his staff, Ivana Alexander, Chairmen DINGELL, MILLER and PALLONE and their staffs, particularly William Garner and Bobby Clark, for their support of this bill, and of course Jean Doyle, my legislative director, for her tireless efforts on this issue. I would also like to thank Anne Munoz-Furlong from the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, Todd Slotkin from the Food Allergy Initiative, Dave Bunning from the Food Allergy Project, and Dr. Hugh Sampson from Mt. Sinai Hospital for their tireless work on behalf of all individuals with food allergies.

This bill will take an important step in protecting children with food allergies.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would urge the adoption of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to our majority leader of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I rise in very strong support of this legislation, and I thank the gentlelady from New York for her leadership on this issue. I thank Mr. DEAL for his leadership, as well, on this very, very important issue.

Madam Speaker, today this House is considering seven very important but largely noncontroversial public health bills. This week, of course, is National Public Health Week, a time to reflect on the importance of the quality of public health programs and a time to reiterate our commitment to addressing the critical problems that afflict America's health care system, such as exploding costs and the rising number of uninsured.

Today, however, I want to address one of the seven health bills that we are considering. The one under consideration right now is H.R. 2063, the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act, introduced by my good friend, NITA LOWEY, of New York, the chairwoman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, with whom I had the great privilege of serving for many years. She is a longtime member of the Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. On that committee, she has focused on health care for Americans, but health care particularly for children, as she has focused on education for our children.

In short, Madam Speaker, this legislation will provide schools across the

country with uniform guidance on how to create appropriate management and emergency plans for children with food allergies. It will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary policy for schools to implement measures to prevent exposure to food allergens and to ensure a prompt response if a child suffers a potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction.

Madam Speaker, deadly food allergies are not some arcane, rare occurrence. Frankly, even if they were, they would require our attention. But the reality is that as many as 2 million school-age children suffer from food allergies. One of those children is my granddaughter, Alexa.

No cure currently exists. Avoiding any and all products with allergy-causing ingredients is the only way to prevent potentially life-threatening reactions, reactions including severe anaphylaxis, which often occur at school and which can kill within minutes, unless epinephrine is administered.

Alexa, Madam Speaker, is 5 years of age. When she is at my house, as she was this past weekend, when she is in a restaurant, she is acutely aware, extraordinarily aware, for a 5-year-old, of what she can and cannot eat. And her mother, my daughter, asked the restaurant, what do you cook your french fries in? What do you use on your foods? It is an extraordinarily anxious time when my granddaughter eats. Just last week, for example, members of my family, including Alexa, visited my office, and we had sandwiches put out for a number of the family members. We had to make sure that all peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were removed from our conference room before Alexa entered to protect her.

To tell you how extraordinarily sensitive she is, she was in Disney World in Florida. She was walking with her mother and father down the pathway there from one exhibit to the other, and all of a sudden she started to wheeze heavily. Anne, who had seen this happen before, could not understand it because she didn't have anything to eat. They retraced their steps, and about 100 feet before this started, 100 feet, they saw some popcorn being popped in peanut oil. And it was simply the wind wafting that peanut odor. And whatever it was in the air she then breathed in, and that immediately started to give her a problem.

The importance of managing life-threatening food allergies in the school setting has been recognized by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. One of the extraordinary nurses of America is our colleague, LOIS CAPPS. And I want to thank Congresswoman CAPPS for her leadership on this issue, as well. As a health professional, she knows firsthand of the consequences of allowing this to go unchecked and unprepared for.

Unfortunately, no consistent, standardized guidelines currently exist to help schools safely manage students with potentially deadly food allergies. As a matter of fact, my daughter, and parents similarly situated, meet with their child's teacher, Alexa is in kindergarten, and teaches them how to use the EpiPen, and it is ever present. My daughter goes nowhere without her EpiPen for use on Alexa should she have an attack.

That is why it is critical that we pass H.R. 2063 to ensure the safety of not only Alexa, but the millions of other school-age children afflicted with food allergies across the country.

I recently went to an event in New York. And after the event, I went to dinner, and there were eight of us at the table. Three of us were grandfathers. Eight people, in New York, not anything dealing with this issue, all three grandfathers were telling one another about the fact that they have grandchildren with food allergies. That is why it is critical that we pass this bill to ensure the safety not only of Alexa, but as I said, of the millions of other school-age children.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to support this important, life-saving legislation.

Mrs. CAPPS. At this point, Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and as has been so eloquently underscored by our majority leader on behalf of all of the families, millions of children, as has been said across this country, their families, but also the schools in which they attend public schools that it is incumbent upon us to pass this important legislation and get this bill signed into law.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act.

Imagine having a child with a food allergy who is at school and can potentially eat something that will cause a life-threatening or fatal reaction. This can especially be a very nerve-racking experience for any parent when their child is away from home and spends most of their time in school.

This commonsense legislation was brought to my attention by many school-age children from my congressional district. They shared their experiences of what they have to do every day to manage their food allergies. They have to scrutinize everything they eat in order to make sure they avoid the allergy-producing ingredients. The least we can do for these children and their parents is to encourage school districts across the country to adopt uniform guidelines in managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis, and develop emergency plans for children who suffer from this illness. This legislation would accomplish this goal by creating a new grant program to provide resources for those school districts who voluntarily implement these measures.

Madam Speaker, by passing this bill, we can help reduce the number of life-threatening allergic reactions and help children manage their food allergies. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. CAPPS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2063, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES ACT OF 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1858) to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1858

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING FOR HERITABLE DISORDER.

Section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-8) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

"(a) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM.—From amounts appropriated under subsection (j), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this section as the 'Administrator') and in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (referred to in this section as the 'Advisory Committee'), shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities—

"(1) to enhance, improve or expand the ability of State and local public health agencies to provide screening, counseling, or health care services to newborns and children having or at risk for heritable disorders;

"(2) to assist in providing health care professionals and newborn screening laboratory personnel with education in newborn screening and training in relevant and new technologies in newborn screening and congenital, genetic, and metabolic disorders;

"(3) to develop and deliver educational programs (at appropriate literacy levels) about newborn screening counseling, testing, follow-up, treatment, and specialty services to parents, families, and patient advocacy and support groups; and

"(4) to establish, maintain, and operate a system to assess and coordinate treatment relating to congenital, genetic, and metabolic disorders.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) a State or a political subdivision of a State;

“(2) a consortium of 2 or more States or political subdivisions of States;

“(3) a territory;

“(4) a health facility or program operated by or pursuant to a contract with or grant from the Indian Health Service; or

“(5) any other entity with appropriate expertise in newborn screening, as determined by the Secretary.

“(c) APPROVAL FACTORS.—An application submitted for a grant under subsection (a)(1) shall not be approved by the Secretary unless the application contains assurances that the eligible entity has adopted and implemented, is in the process of adopting and implementing, or will use amounts received under such grant to adopt and implement the guidelines and recommendations of the Advisory Committee that are adopted by the Secretary and in effect at the time the grant is awarded or renewed under this section, which shall include the screening of each newborn for the heritable disorders recommended by the Advisory Committee and adopted by the Secretary.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c), the following:

“(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to coordinate programs funded with grants received under this section and to coordinate with existing newborn screening activities.”; and

(4) by striking subsection (j) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) to provide grants for the purpose of carrying activities under section (a)(1), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

“(2) to provide grant for the purpose of carrying out activities under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a), \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$15,187,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$15,375,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$15,562,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$15,750,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 3. EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING PROGRAMS.

Section 1110 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-9) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HERITABLE DISORDERS IN NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN.

Section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-10) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (6);

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) make systematic evidence-based and peer-reviewed recommendations that include the heritable disorders that have the potential to significantly impact public health for which all newborns should be screened, including secondary conditions that may be identified as a result of the laboratory methods used for screening;

“(4) develop a model decision-matrix for newborn screening expansion, including an evaluation of the potential public health impact of such expansion, and periodically update the recommended uniform screening panel, as appropriate, based on such decision-matrix;

“(5) consider ways to ensure that all States attain the capacity to screen for the conditions described in paragraph (3), and include in such consideration the results of grant funding under section 1109; and”;

(D) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (A)), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, which may include recommendations, advice, or information dealing with—

“(A) follow-up activities, including those necessary to achieve rapid diagnosis in the short-term, and those that ascertain long-term case management outcomes and appropriate access to related services;

“(B) implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of newborn screening activities, including diagnosis, screening, follow-up, and treatment activities;

“(C) diagnostic and other technology used in screening;

“(D) the availability and reporting of testing for conditions for which there is no existing treatment;

“(E) conditions not included in the recommended uniform screening panel that are treatable with Food and Drug Administration-approved products or other safe and effective treatments, as determined by scientific evidence and peer review;

“(F) minimum standards and related policies and procedures used by State newborn screening programs, such as language and terminology used by State newborn screening programs to include standardization of case definitions and names of disorders for which newborn screening tests are performed;

“(G) quality assurance, oversight, and evaluation of State newborn screening programs, including ensuring that tests and technologies used by each State meet established standards for detecting and reporting positive screening results;

“(H) public and provider awareness and education;

“(I) the cost and effectiveness of newborn screening and medical evaluation systems and intervention programs conducted by State-based programs;

“(J) identification of the causes of, public health impacts of, and risk factors for heritable disorders; and

“(K) coordination of surveillance activities, including standardized data collection and reporting, harmonization of laboratory definitions for heritable disorders and testing results, and confirmatory testing and verification of positive results, in order to assess and enhance monitoring of newborn diseases.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (H), and (I);

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration”; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, the following:

“(G) individuals with expertise in ethics and infectious diseases who have worked and published material in the area of newborn screening.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) DECISION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the Advisory Committee issues a recommendation pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall adopt or reject such recommendation.

“(2) PENDING RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall adopt or reject any recommendation issued by the Advisory Committee that is pending on the date of enactment of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007 by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of such Act.

“(3) DETERMINATIONS TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall publicize any determination on adopting or rejecting a recommendation of the Advisory Committee pursuant to this subsection, including the justification for the determination.

“(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) publish a report on peer-reviewed newborn screening guidelines, including follow-up and treatment, in the United States;

“(2) submit such report to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary, the Interagency Coordinating Committee established under Section 1114, and the State departments of health; and

“(3) disseminate such report on as wide a basis as practicable, including through posting on the internet clearinghouse established under section 1112.

“(f) CONTINUATION OF OPERATION OF COMMITTEE.—Notwithstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Advisory Committee shall continue to operate during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 5. INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.

Part A of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1112. CLEARINGHOUSE OF NEWBORN SCREENING INFORMATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this part as the ‘Administrator’), in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall establish and maintain a central clearinghouse of current educational and family support and services information, materials, resources, research, and data on newborn screening to—

“(1) enable parents and family members of newborns, health professionals, industry representatives, and other members of the public to increase their awareness, knowledge, and understanding of newborn screening;

“(2) increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of newborn diseases and screening services for expectant individuals and families; and

“(3) maintain current data on quality indicators to measure performance of newborn screening, such as false-positive rates and other quality indicators as determined by the Advisory Committee under section 1111.

“(b) INTERNET AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall ensure that the clearinghouse described under subsection (a)—

“(1) is available on the Internet;

“(2) includes an interactive forum;

“(3) is updated on a regular basis, but not less than quarterly; and

“(4) provides—

“(A) links to Government-sponsored, non-profit, and other Internet websites of laboratories that have demonstrated expertise in

newborn screening that supply research-based information on newborn screening tests currently available throughout the United States;

“(B) information about newborn conditions and screening services available in each State from laboratories certified under subpart 2 of part F of title III, including information about supplemental screening that is available but not required, in the State where the infant is born;

“(C) current research on both treatable and not-yet treatable conditions for which newborn screening tests are available;

“(D) the availability of Federal funding for newborn and child screening for heritable disorders including grants authorized under the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007; and

“(E) other relevant information as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(c) NONDUPLICATION.—In developing the clearinghouse under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that such clearinghouse minimizes duplication and supplements, not supplants, existing information sharing efforts.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$2,531,250 for fiscal year 2009, \$2,562,500 for fiscal year 2010, \$2,593,750 for fiscal year 2011, and \$2,625,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 6. LABORATORY QUALITY AND SURVEILLANCE.

Part A of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-1 et seq.), as amended by section 5, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1113. LABORATORY QUALITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children established under section 1111, shall provide for—

“(1) quality assurance for laboratories involved in screening newborns and children for heritable disorders, including quality assurance for newborn-screening tests, performance evaluation services, and technical assistance and technology transfer to newborn screening laboratories to ensure analytical validity and utility of screening tests; and

“(2) appropriate quality control and other performance test materials to evaluate the performance of new screening tools.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$5,062,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$5,125,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$5,187,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$5,250,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“SEC. 1114. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING.

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to—

“(1) assess existing activities and infrastructure, including activities on birth defects and developmental disabilities authorized under section 317C, in order to make recommendations for programs to collect, analyze, and make available data on the heritable disorders recommended by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children under section 1111, including data on the incidence and prevalence of, as well as poor health outcomes resulting from, such disorders; and

“(2) make recommendations for the establishment of regional centers for the conduct of applied epidemiological research on effec-

tive interventions to promote the prevention of poor health outcomes resulting from such disorders as well as providing information and education to the public on such effective interventions.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Newborn and Child Screening (referred to in this section as the ‘Interagency Coordinating Committee’) to carry out the purpose of this section.

“(c) COMPOSITION.—The Interagency Coordinating Committee shall be composed of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrator, the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, or their designees.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The Interagency Coordinating Committee shall—

“(1) report to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress on its recommendations related to the purpose described in subsection (a); and

“(2) carry out other activities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, \$1,012,500 for fiscal year 2009, \$1,025,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$1,037,500 for fiscal year 2011, and \$1,050,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 7. CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

Part A of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-1 et seq.), as amended by section 6, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1115. NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR NEWBORN SCREENING.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with the Administrator and State departments of health (or related agencies), shall develop a national contingency plan for newborn screening for use by a State, region, or consortia of States in the event of a public health emergency.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The contingency plan developed under subsection (a) shall include a plan for—

“(1) the collection and transport of specimens;

“(2) the shipment of specimens to State newborn screening laboratories;

“(3) the processing of specimens;

“(4) the reporting of screening results to physicians and families;

“(5) the diagnostic confirmation of positive screening results;

“(6) ensuring the availability of treatment and management resources;

“(7) educating families about newborn screening; and

“(8) carrying out other activities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“SEC. 1116. HUNTER KELLY RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) NEWBORN SCREENING ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, may continue carrying out, coordinating, and expanding research in newborn screening (to be known as ‘Hunter Kelly Newborn Screening Research Program’) including—

“(A) identifying, developing, and testing the most promising new screening technologies, in order to improve already existing screening tests, increase the specificity of newborn screening, and expand the number of conditions for which screening tests are available;

“(B) experimental treatments and disease management strategies for additional newborn conditions, and other genetic, metabolic, hormonal and or functional conditions that can be detected through newborn screening for which treatment is not yet available; and

“(C) other activities that would improve newborn screening, as identified by the Director.

“(2) ADDITIONAL NEWBORN CONDITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘additional newborn condition’ means any condition that is not one of the core conditions recommended by the Advisory Committee and adopted by the Secretary.

“(b) FUNDING.—In carrying out the research program under this section, the Secretary and the Director shall ensure that entities receiving funding through the program will provide assurances, as practicable, that such entities will work in consultation with the appropriate State departments of health, and, as practicable, focus their research on screening technology not currently performed in the States in which the entities are located, and the conditions on the uniform screening panel (or the standard test existing on the uniform screening panel).

“(c) REPORTS.—The Director is encouraged to include information about the activities carried out under this section in the biennial report required under section 403 of the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006. If such information is included, the Director shall make such information available to be included on the Internet Clearinghouse established under section 1112.

“(d) NONDUPLICATION.—In carrying out programs under this section, the Secretary shall minimize duplication and supplement, not supplant, existing efforts of the type carried out under this section.

“(e) PEER REVIEW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with the scientific peer-review process at the National Institutes of Health.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 1858, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act. This legislation would facilitate the creation of Federal guidelines on newborn screening and would assist State newborn screening programs in meeting these guidelines.

Newborn screening is used for early identification of infants affected by certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal, and functional conditions for which there may be an effective treatment or intervention. If left untreated, these disorders can cause death, disability, mental retardation and other serious conditions. Every year, more than 4 million infants are born and screened

to detect conditions that could threaten their lives and their long-term health.

Senate bill 1858 will educate parents and health care providers about newborn screening. It will improve follow-up care for infants when illness is detected, and it will help States expand and improve their newborn screening programs.

It is very important to note that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce held a markup of House companion legislation H.R. 3825, which was introduced by my colleague, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD. And I want to say a word of commendation toward LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, who has really worked diligently over quite a period of time to make sure that this bill reached the floor today. She couldn't be here to speak on behalf of the legislation, but I know that there has been a great deal of leadership that has brought us to this point today.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee amended H.R. 3825 to ensure that it was identical to the Senate bill, 1858, which has already passed the Senate by unanimous consent. And so the good work of our friend, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, has brought us to this point and to the commitment that I share on this important piece of legislation.

I appreciate all of her efforts to carry this legislation forward and admire her dedication to helping the children and families affected by these conditions.

I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of Senate bill 1858.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Newborn screening can certainly identify children at risk for certain metabolic and genetic diseases for which there may be an effective treatment. If it is detected early it is certainly a cost-saving way of dealing with these problems that can lead to death, disability, mental retardation and many other serious conditions.

Currently, States have differing policies and procedures for doing newborn screening. Accurate screening ensures affected babies are identified and receive the proper care.

□ 1600

This legislation establishes a newborn screening education and outreach program at the Department of Health and Human Services in order to improve newborn screening. Many parents of newborns are not aware of the wide variety of screening tests that are available. Thus, the legislation would establish a clearinghouse of educational and family support and services information on newborn screening in order to provide resources for those families.

This legislation moved through our committee in a bipartisan process and the majority and the minority were able to reconcile a few differences on

the legislation in that committee process. I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

Madam Speaker, as one of the chief sponsors of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, I rise today in strong support of Senate 1858 and urge its passage. I would like to extend my thanks to Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON for working together to get this bill to the floor today.

This bill is a tribute to children and their parents who have had to face the pain of experiencing a disease that wasn't caught by newborn screening. Each year, over 4 million children are routinely tested at birth for genetic disorders. But what so many parents don't realize is that the actual number of conditions that their child is screened for depends on the State they live in. A child's life in one State should never mean more or less than a child's life in another.

Every child born with a disease, whether it is common or rare, should receive early diagnosis and treatment. That is why we need the Newborn Screening Laws Saves Lives Act signed into law and adequately funded. Through this legislation, we cannot only educate parents about lifesaving tests available for their newborn child, but greatly expand the screening programs at the State level.

Left untreated, many disorders are life-threatening or can cause serious mental and physical disabilities. Early detection through screening can lessen effects or even completely prevent progression of many disorders by providing for immediate medical intervention.

My State of New York has long been a national leader in newborn screening, starting in 1960 when Dr. Robert Guthrie developed the first newborn screening tests in Buffalo, New York. New York now tests each child for 44 different conditions.

In 2004, the American College of Medical Genetics completed a report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which recommended at a minimum every baby born in the United States be screened for a core set of 29 treatable disorders. Currently, only 19 States and the District of Columbia require infants to be screened for all 29 of the recommended disorders. It is my sincere hope through grants and research funding provided for in the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, every State will be able to coordinate their newborn screening tests in order to bring consistency across the country.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the strong bipartisan efforts of my col-

leagues LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, MIKE SIMPSON, and HENRY WAXMAN. They have long fought for life saving changes to newborn screening it, and it has been a pleasure working with them to achieve its consideration today.

I would like to thank Jill and Jim Kelly and Jacques Waggoner from Western New York for their tireless advocacy on behalf of enhanced newborn screening and for the tremendous efforts to raise public awareness about this vital issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have no other requests for time. I urge the adoption of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the adoption of S. 1858, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1858.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT OF 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 793) to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 793

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO RESTRUCTURING.

Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the section 393B (42 U.S.C. 280b-1c) relating to the use of allotments for rape prevention education, as section 393A and moving such section so that it follows section 393;

(2) by redesignating existing section 393A (42 U.S.C. 280b-1b) relating to prevention of traumatic brain injury, as section 393B; and

(3) by redesignating the section 393B (42 U.S.C. 280b-1d) relating to traumatic brain injury registries, as section 393C.

SEC. 3. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAMS OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

(a) PREVENTION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Clause (ii) of section 393B(b)(3)(A) of the Public Health Service Act, as so redesignated, (42 U.S.C. 280b-1b) is amended by

striking “from hospitals and trauma centers” and inserting “from hospitals and emergency departments”.

(b) NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND REGISTRIES.—Section 393C of the Public Health Service Act, as so redesignated, (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “SURVEILLANCE AND” after “NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY”; and

(2) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “may make grants” and all that follows through “to collect data concerning—” and inserting “may make grants to States or their designees to develop or operate the State’s traumatic brain injury surveillance system or registry to determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury and related disability, to ensure the uniformity of reporting under such system or registry, to link individuals with traumatic brain injury to services and supports, and to link such individuals with academic institutions to conduct applied research that will support the development of such surveillance systems and registries as may be necessary. A surveillance system or registry under this section shall provide for the collection of data concerning—”.

(c) REPORT.—Section 393C of the Public Health Service Act (as so redesignated) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Director of the National Institutes of Health and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that contains the findings derived from an evaluation concerning activities and procedures that can be implemented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve the collection and dissemination of compatible epidemiological studies on the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury in individuals who were formerly in the military. The report shall include recommendations on the manner in which such agencies can further collaborate on the development and improvement of traumatic brain injury diagnostic tools and treatments.”.

SEC. 4. STUDY ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 393C, as so redesignated, the following:

“SEC. 393C-1. STUDY ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

“(a) STUDY.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to paragraph (1) and in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and other appropriate entities with respect to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), may conduct a study with respect to traumatic brain injury for the purpose of carrying out the following:

“(1) In collaboration with appropriate State and local health-related agencies—

“(A) determining the incidence of traumatic brain injury and prevalence of traumatic brain injury related disability and the clinical aspects of the disability in all age groups and racial and ethnic minority groups in the general population of the United States, including institutional settings, such as nursing homes, correctional facilities, psychiatric hospitals, child care facilities, and residential institutes for people with developmental disabilities; and

“(B) reporting national trends in traumatic brain injury.

“(2) Identifying common therapeutic interventions which are used for the rehabilitation of individuals with such injuries, and, subject to the availability of information, including an analysis of—

“(A) the effectiveness of each such intervention in improving the functioning, including return to work or school and community participation, of individuals with brain injuries;

“(B) the comparative effectiveness of interventions employed in the course of rehabilitation of individuals with brain injuries to achieve the same or similar clinical outcome; and

“(C) the adequacy of existing measures of outcomes and knowledge of factors influencing differential outcomes.

“(3) Identifying interventions and therapies that can prevent or remediate the development of secondary neurologic conditions related to traumatic brain injury.

“(4) Developing practice guidelines for the rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury at such time as appropriate scientific research becomes available.

“(b) DATES CERTAIN FOR REPORTS.—If the study is conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, submit to Congress a report describing findings made as a result of carrying out such subsection (a).

“(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘traumatic brain injury’ means an acquired injury to the brain. Such term does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, nor birth trauma, but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia due to trauma including near drowning. The Secretary may revise the definition of such term as the Secretary determines necessary.”.

SEC. 5. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

Section 1261 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-61) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “Labor and Human Resources” and inserting “Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions”;

(2) in subparagraph (D) of subsection (d)(4), by striking “head brain injury” and inserting “brain injury”; and

(3) in subsection (i), by inserting “, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012” before the period at the end.

SEC. 6. TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PROGRAMS OF THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

(a) STATE GRANTS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Section 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-52) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “may make grants to States” and inserting “may make grants to States and American Indian consortia”; and

(B) by striking “health and other services” and inserting “rehabilitation and other services”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraphs (1), (3)(A)(i), (3)(A)(iii), and (3)(A)(iv), by striking the term “State” each place such term appears and inserting the term “State or American Indian consortium”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “recommendations to the State” and inserting “recommendations to the State or American Indian consortium”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by striking the term “State” each place such term appears and inserting “State or American Indian consortium”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “A State that received” and all that follows through

the period and inserting “A State or American Indian consortium that received a grant under this section prior to the date of the enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008 may complete the activities funded by the grant.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM” after “STATE”;

(B) in paragraph (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), paragraph (1)(E), paragraph (2)(A), paragraph (2)(B), paragraph (3) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), paragraph (3)(E), and paragraph (3)(F), by striking the term “State” each place such term appears and inserting “State or American Indian consortium”; and

(C) in clause (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), by striking “children and other individuals” and inserting “children, youth, and adults”;

(6) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary” and inserting “Not less than biennially, the Secretary”;

(B) by striking “Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources” and inserting “Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions”; and

(C) by inserting “and section 1253” after “programs established under this section.”;

(7) by amending subsection (i) to read as follows:

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) The terms ‘American Indian consortium’ and ‘State’ have the meanings given to those terms in section 1253.

“(2) The term ‘traumatic brain injury’ means an acquired injury to the brain. Such term does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders, nor birth trauma, but may include brain injuries caused by anoxia due to trauma. The Secretary may revise the definition of such term as the Secretary determines necessary, after consultation with States and other appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.”; and

(8) in subsection (j), by inserting “, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012” before the period.

(b) STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.—Section 1253 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-53) is amended—

(1) in subsections (d) and (e), by striking the term “subsection (i)” each place such term appears and inserting “subsection (1)”;

(2) in subsection (g), by inserting “each fiscal year not later than October 1,” before “the Administrator shall pay”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

“(i) DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities shall enter into an agreement to coordinate the collection of data by the Administrator and the Commissioner regarding protection and advocacy services.

“(j) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) GRANTS.—For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out this section is \$6,000,000 or greater, the Administrator shall use 2 percent of such amount to make a grant to an eligible national association for providing for training

and technical assistance to protection and advocacy systems.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible national association’ means a national association with demonstrated experience in providing training and technical assistance to protection and advocacy systems.

“(k) SYSTEM AUTHORITY.—In providing services under this section, a protection and advocacy system shall have the same authorities, including access to records, as such system would have for purposes of providing services under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000.”; and

(5) in subsection (1) (as redesignated by this subsection) by striking “2002 through 2005” and inserting “2009 through 2012”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate bill, S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, to authorize research and public health activities relating to trauma and traumatic brain injury. The version of the bill we are considering today represents bipartisan and bicameral consensus.

The purpose of S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008, is to authorize funding for research, treatment, surveillance and education activities related to trauma and traumatic brain injury at the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reauthorizing the traumatic brain injury program will strengthen the goal of understanding and addressing traumatic brain injury and strengthen our commitment to all those who experience traumatic brain injury.

I want to acknowledge my friend the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman BILL PASCRELL, for his incredible leadership in the House on this important matter. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in its support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join my colleague in support of S. 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008. This legislation reauthorizes important grant programs, which assist States,

territories, and the District of Columbia in establishing and expanding coordinated services of community-based services and support for those with traumatic brain injuries.

Traumatic brain injuries, TBI, can happen to anyone, and occur when someone experiences brain damage from externally inflicted trauma to the head. While these injuries can impact children, teenagers and adults, TBI has been described as the signature wound of the war in Iraq.

This legislation, first authorized in 1996, was reauthorized in 2000. With the large number of troops returning from the battlefield afflicted by this injury, it is important that we continue the activities authorized by this legislation.

The bill ensures that we are working to improve treatment through research at the National Institutes of Health and are able to gather information about the incidence of TBI and the prevalence of TBI-related disability.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important effort.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Wisconsin. I would like to also thank Chairman DINGELL and Chairman PALLONE for their thoughtful consideration and support for millions of TBI survivors and their families. But I personally want to thank my friend from Pennsylvania, Congressman TODD PLATTS, for his leadership on this important issue. He has shown true sensitivity, and as cochair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, families all through America could not have a better friend than TODD PLATTS.

I have witnessed firsthand, Madam Speaker, how these programs make a difference in people's lives. Traumatic brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability in young Americans, as well as being the signature injury of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Every 21 seconds, one person in the United States sustains a traumatic brain injury. That adds up to 1.4 million TBIs each year. About half of these cases result in at least short-term disability, and about 50,000 people die as a result of these injuries. Eighty thousand people sustain severe brain injuries leading to long-term disability.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates there are 5.3 million Americans who are living with long-term severe disability as a result of brain injury. The national cost is estimated at \$60 billion annually.

The statistics involving brain injury are increasing even more now that reports show that traumatic brain injuries account for 14 to 20 percent of the casualties for those who survive combat in Iraq. As of 3 months ago, Madam Speaker, 30,327 servicemembers have

been wounded in Iraq. Two-thirds of those, approximately 20,000, have had injuries during this war affecting the brain.

We are in truly a very important time in history. The brain is the last frontier of science. Many returning servicemembers suffering from TBI will receive excellent care and rehabilitation services within the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. But others suffering TBI that are initially undiagnosed or misdiagnosed will later look to the civilian community and local resources for information and services, especially those who serve in the National Guard and Reserves.

That is why it is essential that we continue to foster collaboration between the civilian and the military, like the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. My good friend Colonel Sutton has done a fantastic job there to build a system that ensures returning troops receive what they need to put their lives back together again.

Unfortunately, TBI remains a silent epidemic in the United States of America. That is why the legislation today, Madam Speaker, is so important. The TBI Act is the only legislation that specifically allocates Federal funds for programs supporting individuals with brain injury.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000, the TBI Act represents a foundation for coordinated and balanced public policy in prevention, education and research and community living for people living with TBI and their circles of support, many times forgotten as well. It has produced results. For 10 years, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act was successfully providing direction and legal authority for the vast brain injury community in the United States. The act was not designed to provide direct care to persons with TBI, but rather to inform.

The Health Resources and Services Administration grants within the TBI Act have helped States to improve access to health and other services for persons with TBI. Prior to the 1996 law, they did not have the tools to even access their own needs. Thanks to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we now have a record of incidence, including details and prevalence, plans for prevention, and, finally, access to treatment. We have also begun to educate the public and provide much-needed scientific data for our scientists, our health care providers and policymakers.

Madam Speaker, I cannot tell you how crucial this is to those who have TBI folks within their family. This is serious business. They have to live with it as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. BALDWIN. I would yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Funds would be authorized for the fiscal years 2009 to 2012. It authorizes several new studies, including a study from the CBC and NIH to not only determine the incidence and prevalence of traumatic brain injury, but to identify common therapeutic interventions and develop rehabilitation guidelines. It establishes a study in collaboration with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to identify the best methods of coordinating prevalence data in order to ensure that national research takes into account the incidence of brain injuries among our Nation's veterans and that current information about diagnostic tools and treatments are shared.

Madam Speaker, only a strong commitment from the folks here and on the other side of this building is going to continue the incredible advances we have made in the area of basic brain research with prevention, with detection and with early treatment, physical and mental rehabilitation, long-term care and patient advocacy.

I urge my colleagues to join with many of us on both sides of the aisle. I again thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, TODD PLATT, for his great work.

□ 1615

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to one of the real leaders who has kept this issue moving through this Congress, TODD PLATTS from Pennsylvania, and I yield the gentleman 5 minutes.

Mr. PLATTS. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 793, which, as was well delineated, reauthorizes this very important legislation, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

I am honored to join with Representative BILL PASCRELL in introducing the House version of this legislation, which expands support systems for individuals who have sustained a traumatic brain injury. As the gentleman from New Jersey referenced, for the past 3 years, I have had the privilege of serving with him as cochair of the Congressional TBI Task Force.

I am pleased to recognize my distinguished colleague from New Jersey for his tremendous leadership and dedication related to TBI research and treatments over the course of many years. I have been delighted to serve as cochair for 3 years, but, long before that, the gentleman from New Jersey has been leading this effort and been a real champion of the importance of this work. I have been honored to work with the gentleman from New Jersey to bring awareness to the unique issues that surround TBI, such as frequent misdiagnoses and barriers to adequate and meaningful treatments.

Most Americans do not fully understand the amount of devastation caused by TBI each year. Most people do not realize that the incidence of TBI is greater than the incidence of breast

cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis and spinal injuries combined.

Additionally, TBIs can manifest themselves in various manners, from a small behavioral change to complete physical disability and even death. Brain injuries affect the whole family emotionally and financially, often resulting in substantial medical and rehabilitation expenses.

The TBI Act of 1996 produced extensive research at the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the incidence, detection and diagnosis of TBI. The time has come to better use these results and translate them into more extensive treatments. This is an important part of what Senate bill 793 aims to do.

In addition to expanding the research of NIH and CDC, this legislation will build on the support systems that States have already implemented to increase the independence and productivity of individuals living with TBI.

Soldiers returning from Iraq have brought much-needed attention to the variety of symptoms associated with TBI. Thanks to the state-of-the-art body armor with which our men and women overseas are equipped, these heroic individuals are able to survive violent attacks while receiving blunt force to the head. Studies have found that over 60 percent of all soldiers wounded in an explosion, vehicle accidents, gunshot wound to the head or neck sustain a traumatic brain injury.

This legislation provides additional support for States to integrate veterans into community-based treatments after these heroes return home from combat.

This is a bill aimed at helping individuals who, due to traumatic experiences, may never live their lives the same way again. Senate bill 793 builds on current research and support systems to help vulnerable individuals lead a more comfortable, productive and independent life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and, I, again, commend my colleague from New Jersey for his great leadership in advancing this cause.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to my colleague on the Health Subcommittee, the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I want to thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate bill 793, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2008. I want to commend the leaders of the bill in the House who have spoken already. This version of the bill we are considering today represents bipartisan and bicameral consensus.

It would fund, as we have heard, important research, treatment, surveillance and educational activities related to trauma and traumatic brain injury, commonly known now as TBI. The funding would support ongoing ef-

forts at the National Institutes of Health, which are so important, and also the Health Resources and Services Administration and the CDC.

Reauthorizing this program will strengthen the goal of understanding and addressing TBI and strengthening our capacity to treat it. This current war has made us all too much familiar with the devastating effects of TBI and the importance of coordinated interventions to treat it. The war in Iraq and Afghanistan underscored the importance of this legislation, but by no means do these situations only arise in times of war.

We know that traumatic brain injury has been occurring all along with all kinds of traumas, traumas to the head and sometimes unsuspected injury that can result from other traumas. And so we need to, for a variety of reasons, pass this legislation and get this bill signed into law.

I want to acknowledge my friend and colleague Congressman BILL PASCRELL and also Congressman PLATTS from Pennsylvania. This leadership has brought us to this point. I know that our Health Subcommittee is pleased to be a part of this legislation.

I urge, strongly, our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting Senate bill 793.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption of the bill.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time and would also commend my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 793, the Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. S. 793 is the Senate companion to H.R. 1418, a bill that I cosponsored to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve our efforts to combat and treat traumatic brain injury, TBI, at the Federal and State levels. As a member of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, this issue is near and dear to my heart, and I am proud that we are debating this important legislation today.

Of troops wounded in Iraq 62 percent have sustained TBI, compared to a rate closer to 20 percent in previous conflicts. Overall in the U.S., there are about 1.5 million civilian cases of traumatic brain injury each year. I have worked hard to make researching and fighting TBI a priority and, in particular, the relationship between TBI and epilepsy.

Traumatic brain injury, TBI, causes epilepsy in up to 30 percent of civilians and 50 percent of military head injuries, greatly exacerbating chronic neurological disability. TBI is particularly problematic for soldiers currently serving or recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1996, members of Congress passed the Traumatic Brain Injury Act, which amended the Public Health Service Act to increase resources available to research on traumatic brain injury. Today, we have the opportunity to reauthorize and amend this act to include a broader spectrum of traumatic brain injury programs, especially those at the State level.

An expansion and improvement of our traumatic brain injury programs will serve those in

this country who suffer from the condition, while providing opportunities for research and development of programs to better prevent and detect traumatic brain injuries.

Madam Speaker, traumatic brain injuries affect families across America, and we must continue to invest in programs to prevent, detect, and treat these injuries. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this important legislation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act.

Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, is a leading cause of death and disability in young Americans. Approximately 1.4 million people sustain a TBI each year in the United States. The most common causes of TBI are falls, traffic accidents, and assault. These brain injuries result in short-term or long-term disabilities and can severely impact how people live their lives.

Congress took an important step in 1996 by passing the Traumatic Brain Injury Act to promote brain injury research, education, treatment, and prevention. It is the only Federal law that specifically addresses the issues faced by persons with brain injury. This law has successfully improved access to health care and other services for individuals with TBI. Without the TBI Act, State governments and these individuals would be left to their own devices.

More recently, we have seen an increasing number of traumatic brain injuries in servicemembers returning home from combat operations. The programs in the TBI Act can help the thousands of troops wounded in combat and suffering from brain injury. We have an obligation to assist these soldiers, and I am proud that Congress has provided funding in the recent appropriations bill to address TBI in returning personnel.

The reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act builds on the success of the original 1996 law by continuing to educate the public and provide much needed data on TBI for scientists, health care providers, and policy makers. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of National Public Health Week and the health bills that the House will debate today. It is important that we recognize and build on quality public health programs that affect every aspect of our lives—from effective childhood vaccination programs, to early screening programs for diseases, to ensuring that Americans have access to critical treatment programs.

Access to quality, affordable health care is critical to the well-being of our country, today and in the future. With 46 million uninsured—9 million of whom are children—we need to focus on strengthening the Medicare system, providing increased access to quality health care programs and ensuring that our low-income children and families have health insurance.

During my tenure in the Virginia General Assembly, I introduced a number of bills that focused on child and maternal health, preventive screenings for hearing and immunizations for children against certain diseases. The need for these services was vital to the health of the citizens not only of the Commonwealth of Virginia, but also to our Nation as a whole and continues to help our most vulnerable today.

Madam Speaker, there continues to be an urgent need for expanded health care coverage and increased access to health care for children, seniors and low-income individuals. Because of this need, I introduced H.R. 1688, The All Healthy Children Act. The All Healthy Children Act, endorsed by the Children's Defense Fund, is a logical, smart and achievable incremental next step to close the child coverage gap and guarantees all children have access to the health coverage that they need to survive, thrive and learn. This proposal would ensure that all children are covered by expanding the coverage of both the Medicaid and SCHIP programs while eliminating procedural red tape that currently prevents many children from being covered under either program. This comprehensive program would include all basic health care and preventive testing as well as coverage for mental health and prenatal care.

The bills that we will vote on today will also help to provide our medical community the tools necessary to improve lives through prevention, research and treatment of disease. For example:

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program is a critical CDC program intended to identify and help infants with hearing loss. This bill reauthorizes funding and expands the program to provide screening and intervention services for young children. We know that the earlier hearing problems are identified, the more effective the medical services can be.

The Wakefield Act is designed to improve emergency medical services for children needing trauma or critical care.

The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act educates parents and health care providers about newborn health screening, improves follow-up care for infants with an illness detected through newborn screening, and helps States expand and improve their newborn screening programs. Many diseases and conditions which can be cured when detected early can lead to permanent disabilities if not detected in time.

The Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act is designed to improve the analysis of tests for cervical cancer by ensuring that health care professionals who read tests for cervical cancer are skilled in today's medical technology. It modernizes the cervical cancer testing program by requiring continuing medical education for pathologists to assess their diagnostic skills and ensure they keep up with the latest practices.

The Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act launches a comprehensive preventative care program to reduce the number and severity of falls by the elderly. It directs HHS to implement directives to reduce falls, including improving the identification of seniors who have a high risk of falling; supporting education campaigns focused on reducing and preventing falls and on educating health professionals about fall risk, assessment and prevention; and conducting research to reduce falls.

The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act will help schools deal with food allergies among their student population by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop a policy for schools on appropriate management and emergency plans for children with food allergies and ana-

phylaxis. The policy would be provided to schools within 1 year after enactment, and schools could voluntarily implement the policy. The bill also authorizes HHS to award grants to local school districts to help them in implementing the policy.

The House amendment to the Traumatic Brain Injury Act authorizes the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, to provide State grants for patients with traumatic brain injury to enter treatment and rehabilitation programs. The thousands of brain injury survivors who are returning home from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan are joining the 5.3 million similarly afflicted Americans here at home. Indeed, TBI is the leading cause of death and disability among young Americans. The legislation would require the CDC to monitor brain injury incidents and create a reporting system to track the condition. It also directs CDC to study treatment techniques and NIH to conduct basic research to improve treatment.

Madam Speaker, action on these critical issues is imperative to meet the pressing health care concerns of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support these bills.

Ms. BALDWIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 793, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2537, BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-572) on the resolution (H. Res. 1083) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes, which

was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-573) on the resolution (H. Res. 1084) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2016) to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.J. Res. 70, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2464, by the yeas and nays;

S. 793, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMY RESERVE ON ITS CENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 70, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 70, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—393

Ackerman	Bilirakis	Burton (IN)
Aderholt	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Akin	Bishop (NY)	Calvert
Alexander	Bishop (UT)	Camp (MI)
Allen	Blackburn	Campbell (CA)
Altmire	Blumenauer	Cannon
Andrews	Blunt	Cantor
Arcuri	Boehner	Capito
Baca	Bonner	Capps
Bachmann	Bono Mack	Capuano
Bachus	Boozman	Cardoza
Baird	Boren	Carney
Baldwin	Boswell	Carson
Barrett (SC)	Boustany	Carter
Barrow	Boyd (FL)	Castle
Bartlett (MD)	Boyda (KS)	Castor
Barton (TX)	Brady (PA)	Chabot
Bean	Brady (TX)	Chandler
Becerra	Broun (GA)	Clarke
Berkley	Brown (SC)	Clay
Berman	Brown-Waite,	Cleaver
Berry	Ginny	Clyburn
Biggert	Buchanan	Coble
Bilbray	Burgess	Cohen

Cole (OK)	Jackson-Lee	Oliver	Van Hollen	Waters	Whitfield (KY)
Conaway	(TX)	Ortiz	Velázquez	Watson	Wilson (OH)
Conyers	Jefferson	Pallone	Visclosky	Watt	Wilson (SC)
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell	Walberg	Waxman	Wittman (VA)
Costa	Johnson, Sam	Pastor	Walden (OR)	Weiner	Wolf
Costello	Jones (NC)	Paul	Walsh (NY)	Welch (VT)	Wu
Courtney	Jones (OH)	Pearce	Walz (MN)	Weldon (FL)	Wynn
Cramer	Jordan	Pence	Wamp	Weller	Yarmuth
Crowley	Kagen	Perlmutter	Wasserman	Westmoreland	Young (AK)
Cuellar	Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)	Schultz	Wexler	Young (FL)
Culberson	Kaptur	Petri			
Cummings	Keller	Pickering			
Davis (AL)	Kennedy	Pitts	Abercrombie	Ferguson	Payne
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Platts	Boucher	Flake	Peterson (PA)
Davis (IL)	Kilpatrick	Poe	Braley (IA)	Gonzalez	Pryce (OH)
Davis (KY)	Kind	Pomeroy	Brown, Corrine	Gordon	Rodriguez
Davis, David	King (IA)	Porter	Buyer	Granger	Rohrabacher
Davis, Lincoln	King (NY)	Price (GA)	Carnahan	Hall (NY)	Rothman
Davis, Tom	Kingston	Price (NC)	Crenshaw	Heller	Rush
Deal (GA)	Kirk	Putnam	Cubin	Johnson (GA)	Sires
DeFazio	Klein (FL)	Radanovich	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (IL)	Udall (CO)
DeGette	Kline (MN)	Rahall	Diaz-Balart, M.	Langevin	Wilson (NM)
Delahunt	Knollenberg	Ramstad	Emerson	Markey	Woolsey
DeLauro	Kucinich	Rangel	Engel	McDermott	
Dent	Kuhl (NY)	Regula	Feeney	Mollohan	
Dicks	LaHood	Rehberg			
Dingell	Lamborn	Reichert			
Doggett	Lampson	Renzi			
Donnelly	Larsen (WA)	Reyes			
Doollittle	Larson (CT)	Reynolds			
Doyle	Latham	Richardson			
Drake	LaTourette	Rogers (AL)			
Dreier	Latta	Rogers (KY)			
Duncan	Lee	Rogers (MI)			
Edwards	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen			
Ehlers	Lewis (CA)	Roskam			
Ellison	Lewis (GA)	Ross			
Ellsworth	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard			
Emanuel	Linder	Royce			
English (PA)	Lipinski	Ruppersberger			
Eshoo	LoBiondo	Ryan (OH)			
Etheridge	Loeb sack	Ryan (WI)			
Everett	Lofgren, Zoe	Salazar			
Fallin	Lowe	Sali			
Farr	Lucas	Sánchez, Linda			
Fattah	Lungren, Daniel	T.			
Filner	E.	Sanchez, Loretta			
Forbes	Lynch	Sarbanes			
Fortenberry	Mack	Saxton			
Fossella	Mahoney (FL)	Schakowsky			
Foster	Maloney (NY)	Schiff			
Fox	Manzullo	Schmidt			
Frank (MA)	Marchant	Schwartz			
Frank (AZ)	Marshall	Scott (GA)			
Frelinghuysen	Matheson	Scott (VA)			
Galleghy	Matsui	Sensenbrenner			
Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (CA)	Serrano			
Gerlach	McCarthy (NY)	Sessions			
Giffords	McCaul (TX)	Sestak			
Gilchrest	McCollum (MN)	Shadegg			
Gillibrand	McCotter	Shays			
Gingrey	McCrery	Shea-Porter			
Gohmert	McGovern	Sherman			
Goode	McHenry	Shimkus			
Goodlatte	McHugh	Shuler			
Graessle	McIntyre	Shuster			
Green, Al	McKeon	Simpson			
Green, Gene	McMorris	Skelton			
Grijalva	Rodgers	Slaughter			
Gutierrez	McNerney	Smith (NE)			
Hall (TX)	McNulty	Smith (NJ)			
Hare	Meek (FL)	Smith (TX)			
Harman	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)			
Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Snyder			
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Solis			
Hayes	Michaud	Souder			
Hensarling	Miller (FL)	Space			
Herger	Miller (MI)	Spratt			
Herseeth Sandlin	Miller (NC)	Stark			
Higgins	Miller, Gary	Stearns			
Hill	Miller, George	Stupak			
Hinche	Mitchell	Sullivan			
Hinojosa	Moore (KS)	Sutton			
Hirono	Moore (WI)	Tancredo			
Hobson	Moran (KS)	Tanner			
Hodes	Moran (VA)	Tauscher			
Hoekstra	Murphy (CT)	Taylor			
Holden	Murphy, Patrick	Terry			
Holt	Murphy, Tim	Thompson (CA)			
Honda	Murtha	Thompson (MS)			
Hooley	Musgrave	Thornberry			
Hoyer	Myrick	Tiahrt			
Hulshof	Nadler	Tiberi			
Hunter	Napolitano	Tierney			
Inglis (SC)	Neal (MA)	Towns			
Inslee	Neugebauer	Tsongas			
Issa	Nunes	Turner			
Jackson (IL)	Oberstar	Udall (NM)			
	Obey	Upton			

NOT VOTING—37

Abercrombie	Ferguson	Payne
Boucher	Flake	Peterson (PA)
Braley (IA)	Gonzalez	Pryce (OH)
Brown, Corrine	Gordon	Rodriguez
Buyer	Granger	Rohrabacher
Carnahan	Hall (NY)	Rothman
Crenshaw	Heller	Rush
Cubin	Johnson (GA)	Sires
Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (IL)	Udall (CO)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Langevin	Wilson (NM)
Emerson	Markey	Woolsey
Engel	McDermott	
Feeney	Mollohan	

□ 1859

Mr. MCCRERY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 161, I was unavoidably detained due to a delay in U.S. Airways flight number 3088. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

WAKEFIELD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2464, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2464, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 1, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—390

Ackerman	Bilbray	Brown-Waite,
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Ginny
Akin	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Alexander	Bishop (NY)	Burgess
Allen	Bishop (UT)	Burton (IN)
Altmire	Blackburn	Butterfield
Andrews	Blumenauer	Calvert
Arcuri	Blunt	Camp (MI)
Baca	Boehner	Campbell (CA)
Bachmann	Bonner	Cannon
Bachus	Bono Mack	Cantor
Baird	Boozman	Capito
Baldwin	Boren	Capps
Barrett (SC)	Boswell	Capuano
Barrow	Boustany	Cardoza
Bartlett (MD)	Boyd (FL)	Carnahan
Barton (TX)	Boyda (KS)	Carney
Bean	Brady (PA)	Carson
Becerra	Brady (TX)	Carter
Berkley	Broun (GA)	Castle
Berman	Brown (SC)	Castor
Berry		Chabot
Biggert		

Chandler	Hulshof	Napolitano	Tsongas	Wasserman	Whitfield (KY)	Castle	Holt	Murphy, Tim
Clarke	Hunter	Neal (MA)	Turner	Schultz	Wilson (OH)	Castor	Honda	Murtha
Clay	Inglis (SC)	Neugebauer	Udall (NM)	Waters	Wilson (SC)	Chabot	Hooley	Musgrave
Cleaver	Inslee	Nunes	Upton	Watson	Wittman (VA)	Chandler	Hoyer	Myrick
Clyburn	Israel	Oberstar	Van Hollen	Watt	Wolf	Clarke	Hulshof	Nadler
Coble	Issa	Obey	Velázquez	Waxman	Wu	Clay	Hunter	Napolitano
Cohen	Jackson (IL)	Oliver	Visclosky	Weiner	Wynn	Cleaver	Inglis (SC)	Neal (MA)
Cole (OK)	Jackson-Lee	Ortiz	Walberg	Welch (VT)	Yarmuth	Clyburn	Inslee	Neugebauer
Conaway	(TX)	Pallone	Walden (OR)	Weldon (FL)	Young (AK)	Coble	Israel	Nunes
Conyers	Jefferson	Pascarell	Walsh (NY)	Weller	Young (FL)	Cohen	Issa	Oberstar
Cooper	Johnson (IL)	Pastor	Walz (MN)	Westmoreland		Cole (OK)	Jackson (IL)	Obey
Costa	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce	Wamp	Wexler		Conaway	Jackson-Lee	Oliver
Costello	Johnson, Sam	Pence				Conyers	(TX)	Ortiz
Courtney	Jones (NC)	Perlmutter				Cooper	Jefferson	Pallone
Cramer	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)				Costa	Johnson (IL)	Pascarell
Crowley	Jordan	Petri				Costello	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor
Cuellar	Kagen	Pickering				Courtney	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
Culberson	Kanjorski	Pitts	Abercrombie	Ferguson	Murphy, Tim	Cramer	Jones (NC)	Pence
Cummings	Kaptur	Platts	Berman	Flake	Payne	Crowley	Jones (OH)	Perlmutter
Davis (AL)	Keller	Poe	Boucher	Gonzalez	Peterson (PA)	Cuellar	Jordan	Peterson (MN)
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Pomeroy	Braley (IA)	Gordon	Pryce (OH)	Culberson	Kagen	Petri
Davis (IL)	Kildee	Porter	Brown, Corrine	Granger	Rohrabacher	Cummings	Kanjorski	Pickering
Davis (KY)	Kilpatrick	Price (GA)	Buyer	Hall (NY)	Rothman	Davis (AL)	Kaptur	Pitts
Davis, David	Kind	Price (NC)	Crenshaw	Heller	Rush	Davis (CA)	Keller	Platts
Davis, Lincoln	King (IA)	Putnam	Cubin	Johnson (GA)	Schwartz	Davis (IL)	Kennedy	Poe
Davis, Tom	King (NY)	Radanovich	Diaz-Balart, L.	Langevin	Sires	Davis (KY)	Kildee	Pomeroy
Deal (GA)	Kingston	Rahall	Diaz-Balart, M.	Markey	Sullivan	Davis, David	Kilpatrick	Porter
DeFazio	Kirk	Ramstad	Emerson	McDermott	Udall (CO)	Davis, Lincoln	Kind	Price (GA)
DeGette	Klein (FL)	Rangel	Engel	Miller, George	Wilson (NM)	Davis, Tom	King (IA)	Price (NC)
Delahunt	Kline (MN)	Regula	Feeney	Mollohan	Woolsey	Deal (GA)	King (NY)	Putnam
DeLauro	Knollenberg	Rehberg				DeFazio	Kingston	Rahall
Dent	Kucinich	Reichert				DeGette	Kirk	Ramstad
Dicks	Kuhl (NY)	Renzi				Delahunt	Klein (FL)	Rangel
Dingell	LaHood	Reyes				DeLauro	Kline (MN)	Regula
Doggett	Lamborn	Reynolds				Dent	Knollenberg	Rehberg
Donnelly	Lampson	Richardson				Dicks	Kucinich	Reichert
Doolittle	Larsen (WA)	Rodriguez				Dingell	Kuhl (NY)	Reyes
Doyle	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)				Doggett	LaHood	Reynolds
Drake	Latham	Rogers (KY)				Donnelly	Lamborn	Richardson
Dreier	LaTourette	Rogers (MI)				Doolittle	Lampson	Rodriguez
Duncan	Latta	Ros-Lehtinen				Doyle	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)
Edwards	Lee	Roskam				Drake	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
Ehlers	Levin	Ross				Dreier	Latham	Rogers (MI)
Ellison	Lewis (CA)	Roybal-Allard				Duncan	LaTourette	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellsworth	Lewis (GA)	Royce				Edwards	Latta	Roskam
Emanuel	Lewis (KY)	Ruppersberger				Ehlers	Lee	Ross
English (PA)	Linder	Ryan (OH)				Ellison	Levin	Roybal-Allard
Eshoo	Lipinski	Ryan (WI)				Ellsworth	Lewis (CA)	Royce
Etheridge	LoBiondo	Salazar				Emanuel	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger
Everett	Loeb sack	Sali				English (PA)	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Fallin	Lofgren, Zoe	Sánchez, Linda T.				Eshoo	Linder	Ryan (WI)
Farr	Lowey	Sanchez, Loretta T.				Etheridge	Lipinski	Salazar
Fattah	Lucas	Sarbanes				Everett	LoBiondo	Sánchez, Linda T.
Filner	Lungren, Daniel E.	Saxton				Fallin	Loeb sack	T.
Forbes	Lynch	Schakowsky				Farr	Lofgren, Zoe	Sanchez, Loretta
Fortenberry	Mack	Schiff				Fattah	Lowey	Sarbanes
Fossella	Mahoney (FL)	Schmidt				Filner	Lucas	Saxton
Foster	Maloney (NY)	Scott (GA)				Forbes	Lungren, Daniel E.	Schakowsky
Fox	Manzullo	Scott (VA)				Fortenberry	Lynch	Schiff
Frank (MA)	Marchant	Sensenbrenner				Fossella	Mack	Schwartz
Franks (AZ)	Marshall	Serrano				Foster	Mahoney (FL)	Scott (GA)
Frelinghuysen	Matheson	Sessions				Fox	Maloney (NY)	Scott (VA)
Gallegly	Matsui	Sestak				Frank (MA)	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner
Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (CA)	Shadegg				Franks (AZ)	Marchant	Serrano
Gerlach	McCarthy (NY)	Shays				Frelinghuysen	Marshall	Sessions
Giffords	McCaul (TX)	Shea-Porter				Gallegly	Matheson	Sestak
Gilchrest	McCollum (MN)	Sherman				Garrett (NJ)	Matsui	Shadegg
Gillibrand	McCotter	Shimkus				Gerlach	McCarthy (CA)	Shays
Gingrey	McCrery	Shuler				Giffords	McCarthy (NY)	Shea-Porter
Gohmert	McGovern	Shuster				Gilchrest	McCaul (TX)	Sherman
Goode	McHenry	Simpson				Gillibrand	McCollum (MN)	Shimkus
Goodlatte	McHugh	Skelton				Gingrey	McCotter	Shuler
Graves	McIntyre	Slaughter				Gohmert	McCrery	Shuster
Green, Al	McKeon	Smith (NE)				Goode	McGovern	Simpson
Green, Gene	McMorris	Smith (NJ)				Goodlatte	McHenry	Skelton
Grijalva	McMorris	Smith (TX)				Graves	McHugh	Slaughter
Gutierrez	Rodgers	Smith (WA)				Green, Al	McKeon	Smith (NE)
Hall (TX)	McNerney	Snyder				Green, Gene	McMorris	Smith (NJ)
Hare	McNulty	Solis				Grijalva	Rodgers	Smith (TX)
Harman	Meek (FL)	Souder				Gutierrez	McNerney	Smith (WA)
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Space				Hall (TX)	McNulty	Snyder
Hastings (WA)	Melancon	Spratt				Hare	Meek (FL)	Solis
Hensarling	Mica	Stark				Harman	Meeks (NY)	Souder
Herger	Michaud	Stearns				Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Space
Herseth Sandlin	Miller (FL)	Stupak				Hastings (WA)	Mica	Spratt
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Sutton				Hayes	Michaud	Stark
Hill	Miller (NC)	Tancredo				Heller	Miller (FL)	Stearns
Hinchey	Miller, Gary	Tanner				Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Stupak
Hinojosa	Mitchell	Tauscher				Herger	Miller (NC)	Sullivan
Hirono	Moore (KS)	Taylor				Herseth Sandlin	Miller, Gary	Sutton
Hobson	Moore (WI)	Terry				Higgins	Miller, George	Tancredo
Hodes	Moran (KS)	Thompson (CA)				Hill	Mitchell	Tanner
Hodes	Moran (VA)	Thompson (MS)				Hinchey	Moore (KS)	Tauscher
Hoekstra	Murphy (CT)	Thornberry				Hinojosa	Moore (WI)	Taylor
Holden	Murphy, Patrick	Tiahrt				Hirono	Moran (KS)	Terry
Holt	Murtha	Tiberi				Hobson	Moran (VA)	Thompson (CA)
Honda	Musgrave	Tierney				Hodes	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (MS)
Hooley	Myrick	Towns				Hoekstra	Murphy, Patrick	Thornberry
Hoyer	Nadler					Holden		

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—39

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 793, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 793, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 1, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—392

Ackerman	Berry	Broun (GA)
Aderholt	Biggert	Brown (SC)
Akin	Bilbray	Brown-Waite,
Alexander	Billirakis	Ginny
Allen	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Altmire	Bishop (NY)	Burgess
Andrews	Bishop (UT)	Burton (IN)
Arcuri	Blackburn	Butterfield
Baca	Blumenauer	Calvert
Bachmann	Blunt	Camp (MI)
Bachus	Boehner	Campbell (CA)
Baird	Bonner	Cannon
Baldwin	Bono Mack	Cantor
Barrett (SC)	Boozman	Capito
Barrow	Boren	Capps
Bartlett (MD)	Boswell	Capuano
Barton (TX)	Boustany	Cardoza
Bean	Boyd (FL)	Carnahan
Becerra	Boyda (KS)	Carney
Berkley	Brady (PA)	Carson
Berman	Brady (TX)	Carter

Castor	Hoyer	Murphy, Tim
Chabot	Hoyer	Murtha
Chandler	Hoyer	Musgrave
Clarke	Hoyer	Myrick
Clay	Hoyer	Nadler
Cleaver	Hoyer	Napolitano
Clyburn	Hoyer	Neal (MA)
Coble	Hoyer	Neugebauer
Cohen	Hoyer	Nunes
Cole (OK)	Hoyer	Oberstar
Conaway	Hoyer	Obey
Conyers	Hoyer	Oliver
Cooper	Hoyer	Ortiz
Costa	Hoyer	Pallone
Costello	Hoyer	Pascarell
Courtney	Hoyer	Pastor
Cramer	Hoyer	Pearce
Crowley	Hoyer	Pence
Cuellar	Hoyer	Perlmutter
Culberson	Hoyer	Peterson (MN)
Cummings	Hoyer	Petri
Davis (AL)	Hoyer	Pickering
Davis (CA)	Hoyer	Pitts
Davis (IL)	Hoyer	Platts
Davis (KY)	Hoyer	Poe
Davis, David	Hoyer	Pomeroy
Davis, Lincoln	Hoyer	Porter
Davis, Tom	Hoyer	Price (GA)
Deal (GA)	Hoyer	Price (NC)
DeFazio	Hoyer	Putnam
DeGette	Hoyer	Rahall
Delahunt	Hoyer	Ramstad
DeLauro	Hoyer	Rangel
Dent	Hoyer	Regula
Dicks	Hoyer	Rehberg
Dingell	Hoyer	Reichert
Doggett	Hoyer	Reyes
Donnelly	Hoyer	Reynolds
Doolittle	Hoyer	Richardson
Doyle	Hoyer	Rodriguez
Drake	Hoyer	Rogers (AL)
Dreier	Hoyer	Rogers (KY)
Duncan	Hoyer	Rogers (MI)
Edwards	Hoyer	Ros-Lehtinen
Ehlers	Hoyer	Roskam
Ellison	Hoyer	Ross
Ellsworth	Hoyer	Roybal-Allard
Emanuel	Hoyer	Royce
English (PA)	Hoyer	Ruppersberger
Eshoo	Hoyer	Ryan (OH)
Etheridge	Hoyer	Ryan (WI)
Everett	Hoyer	Salazar
Fallin	Hoyer	Sánchez, Linda T.
Farr	Hoyer	Sanchez, Loretta
Fattah	Hoyer	Sarbanes
Filner	Hoyer	Saxton
Forbes	Hoyer	Schakowsky
Fortenberry	Hoyer	Schiff
Fossella	Hoyer	Schmidt
Foster	Hoyer	Schwartz
Fox	Hoyer	Scott (GA)
Frank (MA)	Hoyer	Scott (VA)
Franks (AZ)	Hoyer	Sensenbrenner
Frelinghuysen	Hoyer	Serrano
Gallegly	Hoyer	Sessions
Garrett (NJ)	Hoyer	Sestak
Gerlach	Hoyer	Shadegg
Giffords	Hoyer	Shays
Gilchrest	Hoyer	Shea-Porter
Gillibrand	Hoyer	Sherman
Gingrey	Hoyer	Shimkus
Gohmert	Hoyer	Shuler
Goode	Hoyer	Shuster
Goodlatte	Hoyer	Simpson
Graves	Hoyer	Skelton
Green, Al	Hoyer	Slaughter
Green, Gene	Hoyer	Smith (NE)
Grijalva	Hoyer	Smith (NJ)
Gutierrez	Hoyer	Smith (TX)
Hall (TX)	Hoyer	Smith (WA)
Hare	Hoyer	Snyder
Harman	Hoyer	Solis
Hastings (FL)	Hoyer	Souder
Hastings (WA)	Hoyer	Space
Hensarling	Hoyer	Spratt
Herger	Hoyer	Stark
Herseth Sandlin	Hoyer	Stearns
Higgins	Hoyer	Stupak
Hill	Hoyer	Sullivan
Hinchey	Hoyer	Sutton
Hinojosa	Hoyer	Tancredo
Hirono	Hoyer	Tanner
Hobson	Hoyer	Tauscher
Hodes	Hoyer	Taylor
Hoekstra	Hoyer	Terry
Holden	Hoyer	Thompson (CA)
	Hoyer	Thompson (MS)
	Hoyer	Thornberry

Tiahrt	Walsh (NY)	Westmoreland
Tierney	Walz (MN)	Wexler
Towns	Wamp	Whitfield (KY)
Tsongas	Wasserman	Wilson (OH)
Turner	Schultz	Wilson (SC)
Udall (NM)	Waters	Wittman (VA)
Upton	Watson	Wolf
Van Hollen	Watt	Wu
Velázquez	Waxman	Wynn
Visclosky	Weiner	Yarmuth
Walberg	Welch (VT)	Young (AK)
Walden (OR)	Weldon (FL)	Young (FL)
	Weller	

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—37

Abercrombie	Flake	Pryce (OH)
Boucher	Gonzalez	Radanovich
Braley (IA)	Gordon	Renzi
Brown, Corrine	Granger	Rohrabacher
Buyer	Hall (NY)	Rothman
Crenshaw	Johnson (GA)	Rush
Cubin	Langevin	Sali
Diaz-Balart, L.	Markey	Sires
Diaz-Balart, M.	McDermott	Udall (CO)
Emerson	McIntyre	Wilson (NM)
Engel	Mollohan	Woolsey
Feeney	Payne	
Ferguson	Peterson (PA)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1917

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACKDOWN IN TIBET

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1077) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1077

Whereas March 10, 2008, marked the 49th anniversary of a historic uprising against Chinese rule over the Tibetan people, which forced His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, to escape into exile in India;

Whereas Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns in and around Lhasa were blocked by Chinese authorities from staging peaceful demonstrations on this anniversary date and were met with excessive force by the Chinese authorities;

Whereas protests by Tibetans spread inside the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas of China;

Whereas the accumulated grievances of almost six decades of cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression of the Tibetan people by the Government of the People's Republic of China has resulted in resentments which are at the root of the Tibetan protests;

Whereas resentment of the Chinese Government by the Tibetan people has increased sharply since 2005 as a result of Chinese policies, laws, and regulations that have reduced economic opportunity for Tibetans and severely eroded the ability of Tibetans to preserve their distinctive language, culture, and religious identity;

Whereas the response by the Chinese Government to the Tibetan protests was disproportionate and extreme, reportedly resulting in the deaths of hundreds and the detention of thousands of Tibetans;

Whereas there have been reports that some Tibetans engaged in rioting that may have resulted in the destruction of government and private property, as well as the deaths of civilians;

Whereas His Holiness the Dalai Lama has used his leadership to promote democracy, freedom, and peace for the Tibetan people through a negotiated settlement of the Tibet issue, based on autonomy within the context of China;

Whereas six rounds of dialogue between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials have not resulted in meaningful progress;

Whereas the Chinese Government has rebuffed calls by the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and world leaders to respond positively to the Dalai Lama's willingness to be personally involved in discussions with Chinese leaders on the future of Tibet;

Whereas the Chinese Government has denigrated the Dalai Lama, labeling him as "a splittist" and "a wolf in monk's robes", thereby further alienating Tibetans who consider the Dalai Lama their spiritual leader;

Whereas the Dalai Lama was recognized for his contribution to world peace when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989;

Whereas the United States Congress, in recognition of the Dalai Lama's outstanding moral and religious leadership and his advocacy of nonviolence, awarded him with the Congressional Gold Medal on October 17, 2007;

Whereas the Chinese Government has failed to honor its commitment to improve the human rights situation in China as a condition for Beijing being selected as the site for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games;

Whereas the Chinese Government has impeded the access of international journalists to Tibetan areas of China and distorted reports of events surrounding the Tibetan protests, thereby violating the commitment it made that "there will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists up to and including the Olympic Games";

Whereas for many years, the Chinese Government has restricted the ability of foreign journalists and foreign government officials, including United States Government officials, to freely travel in Tibetan areas of China, thereby curtailing access to information on the situation in Tibetan areas;

Whereas the Chinese Government's use of propaganda during the protests to demonize

Tibetans and incite ethnic nationalism is exacerbating ethnic tensions and is counterproductive to resolving the situation;

Whereas the United States Department of State included the People's Republic of China among the group of countries described as "the most systematic violators of human rights" in the introduction of the 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and in previous Human Rights Reports, but did not do so in the 2007 Human Rights Report, despite no evidence of significant improvements in the human rights situation in China in the past year; and

Whereas it is the policy of the United States "to support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to safeguard their distinct identity" and "to support economic development, cultural preservation, health care, and education and environmental sustainability for Tibetans inside Tibet", in accordance with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protestors and its continuing cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression inside Tibet;

(2) calls on the Chinese Government to begin a results-based dialogue, without preconditions, directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people and provide for a long-term solution that respects the human rights and dignity of every Tibetan;

(3) calls on the Chinese Government to allow independent international monitors and journalists, free and unfettered access to the Tibet Autonomous Region and all other Tibetan areas of China for the purpose of monitoring and documenting events surrounding the Tibetan protests and to verify that individuals injured receive adequate medical care;

(4) calls on the Chinese Government to immediately release all Tibetans who are imprisoned for nonviolently expressing opposition to Chinese Government policies in Tibet;

(5) calls on the United States Department of State to publicly issue a statement reconsidering its decision not to include the People's Republic of China among the group of countries described as "the world's most systematic human rights violators" in the introduction of the 2007 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; and

(6) calls on the United States Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State "seek to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet to monitor political, economic and cultural developments in Tibet", and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies, and further urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government office in Lhasa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include

extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, for introducing this important resolution. Speaker PELOSI's commitment to human rights generally, and Tibetan human rights specifically, is deep, well established, and unwavering.

For two decades in Congress, from her earlier stage as a junior Member to her current position as Speaker, she has used her powerful voice to speak on behalf of the Tibetan people. The bipartisan delegation that she recently led to Dharmasala to meet with the Dalai Lama and her authorship of this resolution demonstrate her continuing dedication on the Tibetan issue. I am, and all of us in this body should be, grateful for her leadership.

China's response to Tibetan protests over the last month has been tragically predictable. For half a century, the Tibetan people have struggled under the repressive policies of the Chinese authorities. And sadly, the current crackdown is only the most recent example of Beijing's mistreatment of Tibetans.

As the world watched events unfold inside China, we were sickened not only by the shock of seeing images of Chinese authorities beating Tibetans in the street, but also by the realization that these are images that we have seen before, and fear we may see again.

It was this legacy of repression that caused Tibetan monks to take to the streets on March 10th to peacefully protest Beijing's ongoing denial of religious, cultural, and human rights for the Tibetan people. And sadly, it was the same legacy that caused Beijing to respond with excessive force and a propaganda campaign designed to stoke Chinese nationalism by demonizing Tibetans and their spiritual leader, His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

If China wishes to be viewed by the world as a truly responsible power, it must put an immediate end to its shortsighted policies towards Tibet which are morally reprehensible, irresponsible and dangerous.

Beijing cannot credibly claim that it seeks genuine reconciliation with the Tibetan people when its policies force Buddhist monks to denounce their allegiance to the Dalai Lama, deny educational and economic opportunities to Tibetans, and threaten Tibetan culture by encouraging an overwhelming influx of Han Chinese migrants into Tibetan areas. This resolution not only condemns Beijing's crackdown on Tibetan protesters, it also urges China to begin to move away from its policy of repression and incitement of ethnic tensions.

The resolution calls on Beijing to allow international monitors to assess

the situation in Tibetan areas in China and ensure that those injured in the protest receive adequate medical treatment.

In addition, the resolution urges Beijing to hold direct and results-based discussions with the Dalai Lama in order to come to a resolution of the Tibetan issue, one that respects Chinese territorial integrity and sovereignty, but at the same time provides genuine religious and cultural autonomy for Tibetans.

The resolution instructs the Department of State to reconsider its decision not to include China among the countries with the worst human rights records in the Department's 2007 Human Rights Report.

Madam Speaker, at this point, once again, I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI for introducing this important resolution, which I strongly support, and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of this resolution which forcefully criticizes the current bloody crackdown that is taking place in Tibet. This resolution also condemns Beijing's almost six decades of suppression of the religious, linguistic, economic, and cultural rights of the people of Tibet.

It was my great honor, Madam Speaker, to sponsor legislation which resulted in the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that we can bestow in the United States Congress, to His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, last October. My late friend and colleague from across the aisle, Congressman Tom Lantos, and I worked together to ensure that His Holiness received the official recognition that he so richly deserves.

The Dalai Lama, who is also a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, has won the admiration of all of us, not only for his spiritual guidance, but also for his principled stand upholding the human rights of the captive people of Tibet.

Beijing's cynical and crass campaign to denigrate His Holiness both inside and outside of Tibet has drawn the anger of both the Dalai Lama's followers, as well as people of good will throughout the globe. Beijing has called His Holiness "a splittist" and "a wolf in monk's clothing." The Chinese Embassy even recently sent out a computer link to offices here on Capitol Hill ludicrously comparing His Holiness to Nazis.

The people of Tibet can no longer silently bear these continued insults directed at their spiritual leader, a man respected as an advocate of peace, of compassion, and good will. A boiling point was reached on March 10th, the anniversary of the 1959 uprising in Tibet and subsequent flight of the Dalai Lama into exile in India. When demonstrators broke out in Lhasa, Bei-

jing responded with an iron fist. In implementing a bloody crackdown, Beijing ignored its past pledge to the International Olympic Committee to improve the human rights situation in China prior to this summer's Olympics. Chinese authorities even denied foreign diplomats and journalists all access to Tibet.

With increasing numbers of American tourists traveling to Tibet every year, the United States has a legitimate interest in having diplomatic access to Tibet for consular services. But there should be no further openings of more Chinese consulates in the United States until China stops its repression of religious and ethnic minorities and stops violating the fundamental human rights of its own citizens.

The crackdown continued until April 3, when Chinese troops fired into a peaceful crowd of demonstrators outside a Tibetan temple in southwest China. The crowd had been protesting the arrest of two monks who were found in possession of photographs of the Dalai Lama. Eight were killed, including members of the Buddhist clergy.

But the Chinese regime has not only been responsible for shedding innocent Tibetan blood, in Darfur, in Burma, in North Korea, and inside China itself, bloody repression continues unabated.

□ 1930

This lack of liberty will further diminish the light of the Olympic torch. The progression of that torch from London and Paris to San Francisco has become a focal point for those who would raise their voices concerning the immense human rights abuses of the Chinese regime.

What has begun in Tibet will not stay in Tibet. Already there are reports of unrest among the Uyghur minority as well. Beijing's continued repression and denial of human rights will become the chief focal point of international attention in the summer of the Beijing Olympics. And, Madam Speaker, if the present repression continues, the Beijing games will indeed become the "Genocide Olympics."

I urge all of my colleagues to join in vigorous approval and support for this resolution.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I ask unanimous consent that my good friend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) be allowed to manage the remainder of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes of time to a member of the committee, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank the distinguished chairman and

as well the ranking member of the full committee, to the Speaker of the House for her continued leadership. And I am always reminded of the late Chairman Tom Lantos and his commitment to the people of Tibet.

Madam Speaker, I've had the honor and privilege of being with the people of Tibet in their temples, listening to their plea, walking alongside of them, admiring and respecting their tenacity, determination, and their love of freedom and peace. As well, the Dalai Lama has visited not only this community but also the State of Texas, and we have had the pleasure of seeing him be a guiding force for peace.

It is time now for this resolution and the call that it makes for the People's Republic to shine the light on Tibet and give them the rights of engagement and discussion because what we are facing are accumulated grievances of almost six decades of cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression of the Tibetan people by the Government of the People's Republic of China. It has resulted in these resentments, and it has resulted in this oppression in the expression of the Tibetan people.

As this Olympic torch travels around the world, you will see the people who are peace loving and loving human rights standing up. As it comes to my city, as it goes to other cities, there will be those of us who stand against it. In fact, we have called upon the Chinese Ambassador to wake up and to recognize that the world is crying out for justice for the Tibetan people.

The resolution calls on this particular government, the Chinese Government, to begin a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, to bring about respect, to allow international monitors and journalists. I truly believe it is time now for the world to stand up.

And so to my colleagues, it is important that this resolution be passed. I believe we should be in front of the Chinese Embassy here in Washington, D.C., petitioning that government to hear the cry of the Tibetan people, to respect the Dalai Lama, and to bring finally peace and freedom and, yes, democracy to a peace-loving people. The oppressors cannot oppress the oppressed forever, and we stand against it. This resolution speaks to a resolution. We ask for the agreement.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1077, Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that represents the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative NANCY PELOSI. This important and timely legislation calls for an imperative dialogue which will set forth the road to peace and stability.

In recent days, the news has been littered with reports of human rights abuses by the

Chinese government regarding Tibetan dissent. As we approach the 2008 Olympics that will be held in China, it is imperative that we look into the reports of violations of basic human rights by the Chinese government.

On March 4th, Tibetan monks began peaceful protests in the Tibetan capitol, Lhasa, which escalated into violence resulting in a staunch crackdown by the Chinese government, the effects of which have yet to be seen as international media has been strictly restricted in the area. What began as a peaceful protest for religious freedom and autonomy has resulted in Beijing admittedly sending thousands of paramilitary troops and police to the region in order to maintain "peace and stability."

March 14, 2008 marked the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan people's historic uprising against the Chinese government that forced His Holiness the Dalai Lama into exile in India, where he still resides. When Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns attempted to assemble in peaceful demonstration on this anniversary, they were met with excessive force by Chinese authorities. Last month's riots in the Tibetan capitol of Lhasa have once again drawn international interest to the plight of the Tibetan people in their struggle for autonomy and religious freedom. The Chinese government has reported that more than 1,000 people have been captured or turned themselves in, in relation to their participation in said riots.

Last week, Amnesty International released a report stating that despite claims that hosting the Olympics will lead to Chinese observance of international human rights law, the approach of this historic event has actually lead to a crackdown of dissent on the part of the Chinese government. Just one day after the release of Amnesty International's report, Hu Jia, a Chinese activist who has publicized human rights abuses across China, was sentenced to three and a half years in prison for "inciting subversion of state power and the socialist system."

I wish to discuss briefly the importance of the relationship between the United States, China and Tibet and highlight some important legislation that I have supported to provide assistance to the human rights situation in Tibet. As we are well aware, controversy exists over Tibet's current political status as a part of China. This precarious relationship between China and Tibet has prompted U.S. congressional actions in support of Tibet's status and traditions.

Tibet has been under active Beijing rule since between 1949–1951, when the newly established communist government of the People's Republic of China, PRC, sent military troops to occupy Tibet. It was some years later, in 1959, that the Dalai Lama, who is still respected and regarded as the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, along with his followers, fled from Tibet and went into exile in India.

As reports of human rights abuses and political activities surfaced regarding China's continuing repressive social and political controls in Tibet, it garnered more interest and congressional consideration in the late 1980s. Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, is the unrivaled spiritual and cultural leader of the Tibetan people. The Dalai Lama has used his leadership to promote democracy, freedom, and peace for the Tibetan people through a negotiated settlement of the Tibet issue, based on autonomy within the People's

Republic of China. For his efforts on behalf of humanity, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. Most recently in 2006, I lent my support to S. Res. 2784, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest expression of national appreciation for exceptional service, to the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. I appreciate his efforts to promote peace and non-violence throughout the globe, and his efforts to find democratic reconciliation for the Tibetan people through his "Middle Way" approach. I am grateful for the extensive work that the Dalai Lama has done for his country and on behalf of humanity.

Congress has taken a particular interest in the affairs of Tibet. Beginning in 1987, Congress passed non-binding measures declaring that the United States should make Tibet's situation a higher policy priority and urged China to establish a constructive dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

As a Member of Congress, I am interested in the welfare and human rights affairs of the Tibetan people and have previously proposed an amendment to provide \$2 million in the Economic Support Fund for monitoring the human rights situation in Tibet and for training and education of Tibetans in democracy activities and an additional \$2 million in the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for the Tibetan refugee program.

Madam Speaker, I am a staunch advocate for human rights and desire to see the plight of the Tibetan people rectified. As such, I strongly support H. Res. 1077 and call upon my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the coauthor of this resolution who recently returned from Dharamsala, where he met with the Dalai Lama.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and in solidarity with the Tibetan people in this trying time. The recent events in Tibet have captured the attention of this body and the American people. We as Americans are both saddened and outraged by the Chinese Government's crackdown on peaceful protests in Tibet.

This body must be clear in its support of fundamental human rights. Tibetans deserve the right to preserve their culture, heritage, language, and religion.

The Chinese Government has argued that this crackdown was in response to violent protest by the Tibetan people. However, the government dismissed outside journalists from the region and has restricted their ability to accurately report on the situation. Meanwhile, Americans traveling in China in recent weeks have revealed that their televisions went black when the international media reported on Tibet.

This restriction of freedom is consistent with China's historically abysmal human rights record. While it would be simpler to believe that the Chinese Government's assertion that its crackdown was a just response to violent protest, the very fact that

China has gone to such great lengths to control the flow of information on the protests makes such an assertion a great stretch of credulity.

I had the honor of meeting with Tibet's spiritual leader and historic head of state, the Dalai Lama, last month shortly after the protests began. His Holiness made very clear his opposition to the acts of violence taking place in Tibet. Since his exile 49 years ago, the Dalai Lama has consistently advocated for a peaceful resolution to the tension between Tibet and China. If there is to be a real solution to the problem, the Chinese Government must engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama with the intention of finding a lasting resolution for both parties.

In the coming months, China will open its doors to the world and show its best face. We've heard a lot in this country recently about transparency, and this body responded by implementing greater transparency in our government. Now is the time for China to take responsibility for its actions and implement heightened transparency to the world community on the situation in Tibet and on the conduct of its own government.

The stage is set for China to demonstrate a newfound commitment to human rights and peace. This institution and the world are watching expectantly. Let us hope that the Chinese Government receives the message loud and clear that all pressures remain on the table in protecting the rights of the Tibetan people.

Madam Speaker, the Tibetan people have waited 49 years for their freedom. Their patience is wearing thin. If China wishes to be considered an equal among the leaders of the world, it must act like one by standing for basic human rights in Tibet.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a member of our committee, a stalwart fighter for human rights, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank our Speaker for her unyielding stand regarding China's human rights record in Tibet and its association with the genocidal government of the Sudan.

This resolution calls on China to end its crackdown on nonviolent protestors in Tibet and to talk with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to address the very legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people. It sends a clear message to China that the United States does not condone violence and repression against the Tibetan people.

This resolution is also timely as the Olympic torch will make its only stop in North America tomorrow when it comes to the Speaker's district in San Francisco, California, right across the bay from my home district.

As host of the Olympic games, China is facing calls to live up to the Olympic spirit of peace and brotherhood and sisterhood that the torch represents. China's actions in Tibet and its ongoing

support for the genocidal regime in Sudan run contrary to that Olympic spirit.

Madam Speaker, China must play by the rules when it comes to human rights and to genocide. Now is the time to begin this dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. There are legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people which must be addressed, and who better to have this dialogue with than His Holiness the Dalai Lama?

I want to thank the Speaker for really carrying the torch for freedom and human rights and dignity of the Tibetan people. This resolution heeds the call of the international community and puts this body on the right side of history.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1077, introduced by our Speaker, NANCY PELOSI, calling on the Government of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The recent violence in Tibet, which was triggered by the Buddhist monks asking for religious freedoms, should be a great concern to everyone concerned about human rights. China needs to end the violence and engage in open and honest dialogue with the Dalai Lama to achieve peace and reconciliation. China must come to realize that Tibetans deserve more autonomy and the world community will not be silent until they achieve it.

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I am very concerned about human rights in China but in particular the political and religious freedoms of Tibetans. I urge the resolution's adoption and appreciate this resolution coming to the floor.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

China has a law that includes protections for the distinctive culture, language, and identity of ethnic minority citizens. Its Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law guarantees ethnic minorities the "right to administer their internal affairs." More specifically, the term "regional ethnic autonomy" reflects "the state's full respect for . . . ethnic minorities' rights to administer their internal affairs." Madam Speaker, China in recent weeks has reflected anything but "the state's full respect" of ethnic minority rights nor of basic human rights recognized in both Chinese and international law.

Protest activity has included instances of rioting resulting in destruction of property and death of Tibetans and non-Tibetans alike. This is unacceptable in any context. But most protest activity, while at times disorderly, has been nonviolent. The Chinese Government's reaction, however, has revealed a level of hostility towards Tibetans not seen in decades and has heightened fears for the Tibetan people.

The Chinese Government would do well to consider a number of concrete steps to address the current crisis, and I would ask, Madam Speaker, that a list of such steps prepared by the staff of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China be submitted for the RECORD.

ADDENDUM TO FLOOR STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE SANDER LEVIN, CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA

ADDRESSING TIBETAN PROTESTS

1. Distinguish between peaceful protestors and rioters, honor the Chinese Constitution's reference to the freedoms of speech and association, and do not treat peaceful protest as a crime;

2. Provide a detailed account of Tibetan protest activity in each location where such activity took place;

3. Provide details about each person detained or charged with a crime, including each person's name, the charges (if any) against each person, the name and location of the prosecuting office ("procuratorate") and court handling each case, and the name of each facility where a person is detained or imprisoned;

4. Allow access by diplomats and other international observers to the trials of people charged with protest-related crimes;

5. Allow international observers and journalists immediate and unfettered access to Tibetan areas of China;

6. Ensure that security officials fulfill their obligations under Articles 64(2) and 71(2) of China's Criminal Procedure Law to inform relatives and work places (monasteries in the case of monks) where detainees are being held;

7. Encourage and facilitate the filing of compensation suits under Chinese law in cases of alleged wrongful arrest, detention, punishment and other official abuses during the recent protests;

8. Permit international observers to monitor closely the implementation of China's new Regulation on Open Government Information, which comes into force on May 1, 2008, with special emphasis on implementation in Tibetan areas.

9. Strictly enforce the Regulations on Reporting Activities in China by Foreign Journalists During the Beijing Olympic Games and the Preparatory Period, with special emphasis on access to and in Tibetan areas of China.

10. Commence direct talks between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama.

The commission monitors and reports on human rights and rule of law developments in China on an ongoing basis, and I encourage all to visit the commission's Web site, www.cecc.gov, to subscribe to the online newsletter and to use the commission's work to remain up to date on developments in China.

The resolution of Tibetan grievances can only occur with direct talks between the Chinese Government and the

Dalai Lama. The international spotlight will remain long after the ceremonies of the Olympic Summer Games. As China plays an increasingly important role in the international community, other countries will appropriately assess China's fulfillment of the commitments it has made in both Chinese and international law, including legal and constitutional commitments to ethnic minorities.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, an esteemed member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, Tibet is being denied the basic human rights of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the freedom to seek grievances against its own government.

China, the bully of Asia, literally is beating up on the small religious Tibetan community. China puts down dissent by the use of the bloody club and the firearm. And China suppresses the world press that tries to report on what they are doing by issuing scripted propaganda papers about these peaceful Tibetan people, propaganda that we have not seen since Hitler's Nazi Germany.

China's ugly personality of brutality and oppression is now being seen by all of the world. And as China tries to carry the Olympic torch throughout the world, the flame of the torch is setting peoples in this world on fire in support of the people of Tibet.

□ 1945

So China must cease its oppression of its own people or face international rebuke and international condemnation, including condemnation by this body.

I support the people of Tibet, and I urge passage of this resolution. And I want to thank the chairman for bringing this resolution so quickly to the House floor.

Ms. LEE. I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) who is a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I am pleased to join the Speaker of the House today as an original cosponsor of this important legislation to address the rights of the people of Tibet. Across the globe, people are speaking out in support of the people of Tibet. And today, Congress is making a strong statement. And no one outside Tibet has been more clear and more eloquent than the Speaker of the House.

I recently had the honor to join the Speaker as a member of a congressional delegation to India. We were with the spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and we saw and heard thousands of Tibetan refugees cheering America. I'm pleased to say, but pleading with us not to forget Tibet.

Tibet has been under the heavy hand of China for almost five decades, and

the situation has deteriorated with China brutally suppressing Tibetans and systematically and relentlessly eradicating Tibetan culture. Our delegation was moved to see and hear the pleadings of Tibetans of all ages who have braved Himalayan crossings to escape oppression, some weeks ago, some years ago. And the Dalai Lama gives them hope and calls on the world not to forget those who have fled and those who are left in Tibet. And we, too, should give them hope.

I have in my office a crayon-drawn Tibetan flag given to me during our delegation's visit to the Tibetan Children's Village, and I keep this flag in my office because it reminds me of the human toll of the situation. Children and adults flee the villages of Tibet and cross the highest range of mountains in the world to reach the promise of a life where they can preserve their culture and have freedom. The journey is treacherous, but children try to escape the oppression in Tibet.

I am pleased that all the members of this important trip joined the Speaker in introducing this resolution. Both Democrats and Republicans agree that the Chinese Government needs to end the violent crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protesters. Furthermore, it is long past time for the Chinese Government to begin, without preconditions, a dialogue with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, and ensure that human rights and dignity of all Tibetans are protected, to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people, to safeguard the people and their distinctive identity, to support economic development, cultural preservation, health care, education and environmental sustainability.

This important resolution reminds the world and China of our commitment to the people of Tibet.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER).

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, we stand at a historic moment. In the stream of history, it is oftentimes overlooked as we circumnavigate around time, fate and circumstance the momentous era and the momentous deeds which must be undertaken. This is one of them.

I thank the Speaker for bringing this resolution. I thank her for bringing with it the moral weight of her opposition to Communist China's abysmal human rights record throughout her career in this Congress, and for uniting Republicans and Democrats behind it.

But at this moment, I am also reminded of someone who is no longer with us, someone from whom I learned very much. That man is the late Chairman Tom Lantos, a man who embodied the human spirit in its ability to triumph over evil. How many people in this Congress understood the moment when the tanks rolled into Budapest and the Soviets went into Hungary, that that was a seminal moment in the

Cold War, that the desire to breathe free, of the Hungarian people, could not be quelled by tanks and could only be quenched by freedom? And throughout the history of the Cold War, their example was emulated by others, including the Czechs in 1968, and of course the Poles, and that eventually brought down the Soviet Union.

Today, what may appear a resolution of the moment for a specific incident is not that. It is our generation's Budapest. It is this generation of Americans who get to witness the Tibetans trying to breathe free from beneath the Communist yoke of the Chinese regime. And as we Republicans and Democrats stand together today, we stand with them, and we send a clarion message to the Communist Chinese Government. They will be free. And as the Olympic torch goes from town to town and you see people gathering together of all political persuasions and all walks of life to protest the abominable suppression of the Tibetans, let us remember that we here have come together to make sure that the torch of Lady Liberty still shines bright as a beacon of hope for all the world.

Ms. LEE. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS.

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in strong support of House Resolution 1077.

At the end of March, I traveled to India with Speaker NANCY PELOSI and a congressional delegation and met with the leader of Tibet, His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. We met young Tibetan children in India and saw hope in their eyes for a better future. We were greeted by many thousands and thousands of Tibetans along the road as we traveled up the mountain where they lived. Yet we heard stories of violence and torture inflicted by the Chinese Government on the Tibetan people and protesters. We learned of recent Chinese policies and laws that have limited the economic opportunities for Tibetans in China and severely endangered the Tibetan culture, religion and their language, in fact, their whole being.

Tibetans have fled to India to be able to practice their religion in peace and preserve their culture with dignity and respect. The Dalai Lama spoke to us about his desire for peace and his longing to live autonomously, not independent of, but autonomously in China so that Tibetans could practice their religion openly.

I, too, share his desire. House Resolution 1077 calls on China to end its repression inside Tibet, release prisoners who participated in nonviolent protest, and to begin a dialogue, a true dialogue with the Dalai Lama to find a solution for Tibet that respects human rights. The resolution calls for access for journalists so that the world can see, hear and view the situation in Tibet.

The Tibetan people are at a critical point in their movement to live peacefully and autonomously. We must

stand with them. We must also be a beacon of hope for them and for those thousands of children that we saw at the orphanage there. They greeted us with hearts open to us with flags both representing the U.S. Government and the Tibetan people.

I stand here, Members, strongly supportive of House Resolution 1077 and ask you to join with us and the Speaker of the House for its swift passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Again, without objection, the gentleman from California regains control of the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are 5½ minutes remaining for the gentleman from California. There are 6½ minutes remaining for the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, due to the leadership of NANCY PELOSI, we were able to experience a profound and moving time in Dharamsala, India, 2 weeks ago, and it was profound for two reasons. One, when you talk to a Buddhist monk who has walked for 5 days through the Himalayan mountains to escape suppression and obtain some modicum of religious liberty, it would move the hardest of hearts. And we talked to monks who had that experience, monks who couldn't even show a little medallion with a picture of the Dalai Lama on their chest without having to go to jail in Tibet under the control of the Chinese Government. It was profound in that sense, but it was profound in meeting the Dalai Lama, as well, a person of great humor, great grace, great courage and great non-violence. And he has asked for an investigation of what has gone on in Tibet, to quash what the Chinese Government has been saying about him, saying that he has instigated this violence. Anyone who makes that claim couldn't distinguish between Mahatma Gandhi and Che Guevara.

And I take great umbrage at this assertion that somehow he has been the reason for violence. His position has been reasonable. He has asked for a dialogue with the Chinese Government. He has asked for an investigation to what happened in Tibet. He has not called for a boycott of the Olympics, an extremely reasonable position given what his people have undergone.

His aspirations for China I think should be the world's, that as China grows into a great economic power, let it seek to be a great power in the sense of morality and humanity. My district has a growing relationship with China selling jets, software and agricultural products. And we like to see the economic potential of China. But that has to be married, to become a great nation, with a commitment to humanity, morality and religious freedom. This is consistent not only with America's

core values, but international values in the Olympic spirit. We hope we move in that direction.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, at this time, may I ask unanimous consent that we be granted an additional 10 minutes, 5 minutes for the majority, 5 minutes for the minority, on the time already allotted for this resolution debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. STEVE KAGEN.

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, what kind of nation would we be if we wouldn't stand up to speak out in favor of liberty everywhere in the world?

It was on January 6, 1941, right here in this chamber that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt enunciated and outlined for us the four essential human freedoms, freedoms that this Nation fought several world wars for and won. Freedom of speech everywhere in the world, freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to worship God everywhere in the world.

The people of Tibet tonight must hear that we, the people of these United States, are on their side. And we encourage the current leadership of China to support these four essential human freedoms everywhere in the world.

Madam Speaker, very shortly, there will be some Olympic games held in China, Olympic games and Olympic spirit, based upon fair competition, fair and open competition on a level playing field. Isn't it time, we might also ask, that China begins to compete with us on a fair and level playing field, and in particular with regard to Paper Valley in which I live in Wisconsin, isn't it time that they stopped dumping illegal paper into our domestic marketplaces?

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution because we must support these four essential human freedoms everywhere in the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I want to thank Speaker PELOSI for introducing this very important resolution of which I am very proud to be one of the cosponsors, and especially for the trip, along with other Members of the House, that you led to India to be at the side of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, in this hour of terrible suffering for the Tibetan people.

Madam Speaker, tonight we are here to speak frankly about what the Chinese Government is doing in Tibet. Last week, Lodi Gyari, His Holiness' Special Envoy, told me and others on the Congressional Human Rights Caucus that Tibet has "become, particularly in the last few weeks, in every sense an occupied nation, brutally occupied by armed forces."

Madam Speaker, despite the fact that there is an extensive news blackout, the grim consequences have gotten out.

□ 2000

Chinese soldiers and police have shot large numbers of people. The death toll is now well over 150. We don't have any idea how many have been wounded, how many are right now lying, wounded or dying, in attics and cellars, because they know that if they go to the hospital, they will simply disappear into the Chinese Laogai.

The Chinese Government has been subjecting Tibetans to mass arrests. They have searched whole sections of cities, house by house. Chinese officials admit to nearly 2,000 arrests. The China Commission estimates that there are at least 1,000 more. Frankly, I wonder if there might be thousands more, since there are large areas of Tibet from which nothing has been heard in weeks, where phone lines and cell towers and e-mail have been simply turned off.

Many thousands of monks are now being held under house arrest or in lockdown. Chinese riot police have surrounded some Buddhist monasteries and are letting no one get in and no one get out. Many have been tortured. I would remind my colleagues that we are seeing now, in a massive way, what has been ongoing and pervasive for decades.

I chaired a hearing in 1995, Madam Speaker. We heard from six survivors of the Laogai. One of those was Palden Gyatso, a Tibetan monk who spent 24 years in prison. When we invited him to come and speak, he brought with him some instruments of torture that are routinely employed and used in a horrific manner against men and women in the Chinese concentration camps. He told us that many people die of starvation. But when he brought those instruments, he couldn't even get past our Capitol Police. They stopped him. We had to come down and get him through.

Then, when he held up those batons that are used in the mouth and elsewhere in order to provide electric shocks, he actually broke down. He held it up and he said, "This is what went into my mouth as a Buddhist monk and into the mouths of many other people to shock and to deface," and he has trouble swallowing to this day.

He talked about these self-tightening handcuffs, and held up his wrists and showed us the marks on his body, not just on his wrists, but elsewhere. He talked about piercing with bayonets. And this is routine. I would encourage Members to realize what goes on each and every day, but now in a more pronounced way, in a more massive way, against the people of Tibet, through the use of torture.

The Chinese Government, Madam Speaker, what they are doing right now is exactly what happened in some of the parts of the world ruled from the Communists. Who can forget the Soviet invasion of Hungary, which was still felt on the streets of Budapest in the 1980s, even though that happened

back in 1956. Tibet is now a cruel place, not the people, but the Chinese imposition of their crackdown.

Madam Speaker, it should be noted and emphasized that the Tibetan people have not provoked the government into this newest wave of repression. It is the Chinese Government that has provoked the Tibetan people to protest, a protest that, perhaps because of the Buddhist emphasis on peace, has been overwhelmingly peaceful.

As we all know, Tibet has been subjected to Chinese Communist tyranny since 1951. Since 1959, the Chinese Government is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans—and that is a low estimate. The current number of Tibetans living in China is now about 5.4 million people.

I think Members should realize too that there has also been—and the Dalai Lama speaks about this when he speaks about his Five Points of Engagement—this population transfer, where the entire culture is being replaced by a Han Chinese culture. They are getting very good jobs. The incentive has been given them by the Chinese Government, in order to marginalize and decrease the Tibetan people, to make them more of a minority in their own land. What we are talking about here is nothing less than a planned destruction of a culture that has now gone to new lows with this recent crackdown.

In fact, the Chinese Government's attitude toward Tibet can be seen in these two insults by Zhang Qingli, the Secretary of the Chinese Party of the Tibet Autonomous Region, who offered to the people these words. He said, "The Communist Party is like the parent to the Tibetan people, and it is always considerate about what the children need." We are talking about a very abusive parent here. He also said, "The Central Party Committee is the real Buddha for Tibetans." What a sacrilege! What a sacrilege! What a violation of fundamental human rights.

I will say only a couple words about the Olympics, Madam Speaker. The IOC made a great mistake in allowing China to host the Olympics. Who can forget when they were vying for the 2000 Olympics and they let Wei Jingsheng out. Speaker PELOSI knows him very well. I met him in Beijing when he was let out, very briefly. As soon as they didn't get the Olympics, they rearrested him and beat him and tortured him. They finally let him out because he was close to death. But then the IOC awarded the Olympic venue to Beijing several years later.

They shouldn't be held in a nation that cracks down on all kinds of political dissent and has a system of coercion where brothers and sisters are illegal as part of its one-child-per-couple policy, its forced abortion policy, and also a country that is responsible for killing so many Africans. The most recent is happening in Darfur. This really is, as my colleague Ms. LEE said earlier, the "genocide Olympics."

That repression and those killing fields are ongoing today in Darfur. As we all know, some 4 million people died in Southern Sudan even before that, and it was the Chinese who enabled those killing fields as well.

Finally, let me just say briefly to my colleagues that there are American companies who may be supporting this tyranny. I am afraid some of them are doing that, playing smaller or larger roles in the crushing of Tibet, working with the Chinese Internet Surveillance Bureau to block Web sites and blocking and tracking down Tibetans who send Internet reports of arrests and massacres.

The New York Times has reported that the Chinese Government is indeed, and not unexpectedly, blocking Web sites to prevent uncensored news from reaching the Chinese people, including the Web sites of CNN, BBC, YouTube, Google and Yahoo.

The Times has also reported that the Chinese Internet Surveillance Bureau has warned Tibetans about sharing factual news about the protests. They have said, and I quote them, this is the Chinese Bureau, "We inform Internet users that it is forbidden to post news about Tibet events . . . The Internet Surveillance Bureau will carry out filtering and censorship . . . Anyone infringing this ban will have their IP addresses sent to the police, who will then take the necessary steps." That means, Madam Speaker, arrests; that means, Madam Speaker, torture of those who simply try to share the truth as to what is going on in Tibet.

Who can forget Shi Tao, the journalist who got 10 years simply for sending information to an NGO in New York about what the Chinese Bureau of Propaganda had told them they could not do with regard to the Tiananmen Square massacre? Now it is going on in Tibet, and the ugly cycle continues.

As I think Members know, the Global Online Freedom Act legislation, which is pending and hopefully will come to the floor, would finally give us a full and thorough accounting as to this complicity, whether it be witting or unwitting, on the part of these Internet companies, so that we are not part of this tyrannical regime that is now so brutally suppressing, murdering and torturing Tibetan people and putting so many monks into prison, rather than letting them be in their monasteries, where they want to practice their faith.

Madam Speaker, this is an excellent resolution you have brought to the floor. I congratulate you. This is bipartisanship, I believe, at its best. We are all in support of the Dalai Lama. You have led on this for so many years, and are doing so now as Speaker, and I hope we get very strong support for this, on behalf of the Tibetan people and on behalf of the Dalai Lama.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the

gentlewoman from California, the author of the resolution, the Speaker of the House of Representatives (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, the ranking Republican on the committee, for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. It isn't without a tear in the eye that we bring this to the floor and remember our colleague, Congressman Tom Lantos, and how important this resolution would have been to him.

Twenty years ago when I was a new Member of Congress, Tom invited some of us to a meeting that I will never forget. It was with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. At that time he presented to us his proposal for autonomy for Tibet. That is over 20 years ago he has been preaching autonomy, and it is on that basis that we wanted him to have the opportunity to have full negotiations with the Chinese Government. They had said if he doesn't reject the idea of independence, that cannot happen. Well, he rejected independence 20 years ago, much to the dismay of those who want independence.

But, in any event, Tom Lantos opened the door for many of us to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Twenty years later, in the Capitol of the United States, under Tom's leadership and of that Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, we were able to present to His Holiness the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that this body can bestow. I am proud to say that President Bush stood there side-by-side with His Holiness presenting our Congressional Gold Medal to him. No President before had been so courageous, and I appreciate and am proud that President Bush did that.

Following that, we talked about taking a trip to India to talk about global warming, that our Energy Independence and Global Warming Task Force, which Mr. MARKEY and Mr. SENSENBRENNER, who spoke so eloquently earlier, were in the lead on.

When we planned the trip, we had accepted His Holiness' invitation to visit him in Dharamsala, without any thought that it would be at a controversial time. As fate would have it, we made our plans in December and January. When we got there in the middle of March, it was following the crackdown in Tibet of the peaceful demonstrators in Lhasa and in other parts of Tibet by the Chinese Government. It was stunning really to see the reaction of the Chinese to the simple observance of the 49th anniversary of the Dalai Lama being forced out of Tibet by the Chinese. As the monks demonstrated and protested, the Chinese government cracked down.

While we were there, it was interesting to hear that the Government of China was saying that His Holiness was the instigator of violence in China,

that he had the “heart of a jackal” and all kind of animal references. We all love our animals, but they were not appropriate to His Holiness. We all know His Holiness to be the personification of nonviolence in the world, a bridge builder for peace and human understanding, as we said in our presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to him.

So we thought it must be our fate, it must be our karma, that we would be in Dharamsala at that time. As was indicated by some of our colleagues, Mr. INSLEE mentioned that some monks had traveled for 5 days over Himalayas to Dharamsala to tell us about the treatment they had received.

Some of the people we met with, Mr. SMITH, had been in prison for many years in China. One woman who was in her eighties had been in prison for over 25 years. We heard of the torture that was exacted upon them as recently as a matter of days before we were there. So the torture that you described that you heard about in your committee continues to this day, and we very tearfully received that information from the prisoners.

But the point is that in Tibet you are arrested and repressed for what you believe; not even for acting upon your beliefs, but for what you believe, and that is something that flies in the face of everything we stand for as a country. That is why I was so pleased that the President stood there and showed bipartisan spirit, Democrats and Republicans coming together, as Mr. SMITH mentioned. We have worked on this issue for many years and in a very bipartisan way in terms of China.

Another place where China has influence that Mr. SMITH and Mr. WOLF have been leaders has been in the Sudan. But for the Chinese's absolute insistence that they will not sanction the Sudan at the U.N., we could perhaps have an improvement in the human rights situation and the political situation in the Sudan.

Many of us took a trip, many Members have been there, I led a delegation there with Mr. CLYBURN to Darfur a couple of years ago and we saw firsthand the genocide that was going on there. It was horrible to see. We went to several camps. In one camp, 100,000 refugees were there. We saw the little children. The tiny ones really still had some brightness in their eyes. The older ones, they had seen too much.

In this camp, in the evening when it would be cool, if the father went out to get firewood, he would be killed. If the mother went out, she could be raped. In any event, the children could be kidnapped. They had been displaced from their villages with compliance of the Government of Sudan.

□ 2015

All we need is strong international leadership to end that situation. China stands in the way. When we are talking about Tibet and when we are talking about the Olympics and we are talking

about Tibet, we have to remember Burma as well and the house arrest also for all these many years.

We have to remember what is happening in Darfur. I was reading in the paper the other day as the torch was going through Paris that one of the marchers, the carriers of the torch said that what was happening with the protesters was very unpleasant. I thought, you think that's unpleasant? Maybe you should be in the sub-human conditions that the refugees are in Darfur. If you think that's unpleasant, maybe you should be in a prison in Tibet for your faith and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

You think that's unpleasant? Maybe you could still be in prison from the Tiananmen Square massacre. Some people are still in prison from that time.

Mr. SMITH knows well the fight we had at the time because shortly after, a couple of years after Tiananmen, we were still fighting for the release of the prisoners of Tiananmen. We had about a \$5 billion a year trade deficit.

We thought that that would give us so much leverage with the Chinese Government that surely if we threatened the most-favored nation status, as it was called then, that they would yield and release these prisoners because it meant \$5 billion a year to them.

Well, we didn't win. We didn't prevail in that situation.

As I say, it was a Republican President and a Democratic President. We didn't get any better policy from either of them when it came to China. They told us that granting most-favored nation status, they changed the name to permanent normal trade relations because it sounded better, would, in fact, improve the political situation in China and improve our trade relationship with China.

When these people are saying it's unpleasant, I think it's unpleasant to think that a \$5 billion a year trade deficit is now \$5 billion a week, \$5 billion a week. That is a quarter of a trillion dollars a year trade deficit with China.

Has it improved our trade relationship? I don't think so. Has it improved the human rights situation in China? I don't think so.

Somewhere along the way we lost our way. We said at the time, some of us, if you choose to ride this tiger that is China, only China will decide when you can get off. China won the Olympics. Some of us supported resolutions in opposition to that, but they won the Olympics.

I don't support a boycott of the Olympics. I think our athletes who have trained should be able to go there and compete. I think it should be treated as a sports event. Any time it tries to rise to the occasion of harmony, one world, one dream, a unifying factor, that is where it falls short, because the Chinese cannot on the one hand take the political upside of the credibility given to them at any welcoming cere-

mony and refuse to hear the other side of the political view that they are unworthy of making that claim.

As we speak tonight as we are gathered here in this Chamber, in my City of San Francisco human rights activists are preparing for the torch to come through our city tomorrow, a city very committed to human rights. I was very proud that yesterday they were able to display a “One World, One Dream: Free Tibet” banner across the Golden Gate Bridge. It's just frightening to think of how they were able to accomplish it, but they got their message across with, probably in my view, the most beautiful backdrop in the world for all the world to see.

Tomorrow, as the torch goes through the city, people will voice their views on it. But, still tonight, Desmond Tutu is leading a prayer vigil in San Francisco in protest of what is happening with that torch going through.

Probably the most insulting of all, though, is that China insists that the torch go through Tibet, that it go to Mount Everest and through Tibet on its way back to Beijing. That's the biggest insult, I think, of all. The world should not allow that to happen. What's right about that?

When I was in Dharamsala, I had the privilege of addressing the crowd gathered in the square. I said at the time that the situation in Tibet challenges the conscience of the world. Indeed, the situation in Darfur challenges the conscience of the world, two places where China can change, make a difference. I also said that if we, the freedom-loving people throughout the world do not stand up for human rights in China and Tibet, then we lose all moral authority to talk about it any other place in the world.

It is many years of activism on this subject, and lots of documentation, but, as Mr. SMITH mentioned, we know so many of the people firsthand, such as Harry Wu, who had been imprisoned. Why this is important tonight is because what the Chinese did, the most excruciating form of torture that an oppressor can exact on a political prisoner is to say to him or her nobody even knows you are here. They don't even care about you anymore. Society has passed this issue by. It's no longer important. Your family is out there suffering, you are here forgotten, but the world does not remember you.

Well, we are here tonight to say that the world does, a continuation of the work that Mr. SMITH has referenced and others have referenced tonight about our calling to the attention of the world the names, the actual names of people who have been imprisoned for their beliefs, their religious beliefs, their political beliefs. This the resolution is very simple, and when we vote on it tomorrow, I hope we have an overwhelming vote.

What it says to the Chinese Government, as they prepare for the Olympics in harmony, “One World, One Dream: Free Tibet,” is that they end the

crackdown in Tibet, that they enter into substantive dialogue directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, that they allow independent monitors, journalists and others into Tibet and they also allow medical personnel. As was mentioned, people who have been beaten by the Chinese cannot receive medical assistance and they need that life-saving attention. That's what we are talking about here.

As for the accusation that that jackal, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the instigator of violence in Tibet, started all of this, His Holiness called for and our delegation in Dharamsala associated ourselves with his call which was for an independent outside investigation as to how that all started. If they are going to accuse him, then they must be prepared to have an investigation to prove their point or to be proven wrong.

When we were there, I just want to close by saying, because it was very moving for us, when we got off the airplane and we were driving to Dharamsala for miles and miles and miles and miles, and when we got to Dharamsala to the center of town, we were greeted by many Tibetans flying American flags. We take the pledge in the morning, and any time we see the flag, it is an emotional experience for us. But to see these people who have had to struggle so much for freedom pay homage to our flag was quite a remarkable thing.

Here is one sign, which was my particular favorite. It said, "Thank you for everything you have done for us so far." But all the American flags, the Tibetans flags, and, just again, it was a forest of flags there.

Mr. HOLT referenced the children, when we went to the children's school, thousands of adorable children, many of them separated from their families, because that's the only way they could be raised in a Tibetan culture which is now restrained. Here are these children, they drew, they had thousands of these. I brought many of them home, an American flag on one side and on the other side a Tibetan flag, "Free Tibet, Free Tibet." It goes on, "Long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama."

"Long live the friendship between the United States and Tibet," a friendship that began when Franklin Roosevelt sent His Holiness, when he was a very little boy, a watch. That watch had the rising of the sun, the months of the year, the phases of the moon, and it did tell time too. It was a very special fit, a gold watch. His Holiness has said that he took that watch with him when he left Tibet, imagine, a piece of America in that flight to freedom.

It is our wish that under the provisions of this legislation and the voices being heard all over the world now that those negotiations will take place between the Chinese Government and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I, like many, have asked about the opening ceremonies. You don't want to boycott the Olympics, what about the opening ceremonies?

I think we should, since the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, has put that on the table, it should stay there. Our President should hold back any decision about going to those opening ceremonies until he sees what progress could be made, what leverage we could use to have those negotiations take place so that before too long and while His Holiness is still in good health he can return to Tibet and, indeed, the Tibetan people in their autonomous state of Tibet can be free.

I am very proud of this resolution. I couldn't be prouder of all the statements that were made this evening with all the passion and interest and history that went with it. I think it is a tribute to His Holiness, and I hope the vote tomorrow will be unequivocal about that. I am certain it will. I also they think that it is a tribute to our friend, Tom Lantos, who had been so faithful to this cause.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. SMITH.

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for those wonderful worlds, for elevating this Chamber.

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, in mid-March, the Chinese government conducted a bloody crackdown, grossly violating the human rights of the peaceful protestors in Tibet.

The protest by the Tibetans touched a nerve and rapidly spread beyond the capital city of Lhasa into other areas of Tibet and around the world. The peaceful protest drew a violent and disproportionate reaction from the Chinese government who sought to tamp down the Tibetan desire for autonomy and self-determination. Not only did the Chinese government react with terrible force upon the protestors, the authorities also tried to discredit the Dalai Lama and his movement for a free Tibet.

The Dalai Lama is as determined and committed to nonviolence as he is to seeing the emergence of a peaceful, prosperous, autonomous and self-determined Tibet. The brutal crackdown that seeks to derail the inevitable movement toward a free Tibet resulted in the deaths of more than 100 Tibetans and caused a great deal of social upheaval.

While we live a safe distance away from the struggle, comfortably ensconced in a liberal democratic society, we cannot act as though we do not have a role to play to support the Dalai Lama. We do.

I am enormously grateful to Speaker PELOSI, who has offered this House resolution which calls upon the Chinese to end this crackdown. This violent reaction is short-sighted and unproductive and, furthermore, it's not the long-term solution that respects the human rights and dignity of every Tibetan.

Rather, the Chinese Government must enter into a serious, substantive negotiation directly with the Dalai Lama and must allow independent monitors into Tibet. Only then will we be on the path toward a solution to this crisis. Furthermore, I join Speaker PELOSI and other supporters of a free Tibet, to ask for the immediate release of all Tibetans who were arrested for non-violent protest.

I am pleased this evening to express my support for the struggle toward a free Tibet, and I would encourage all my colleagues to join me by supporting this important House resolution.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1077, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet. The resolution also calls for the Chinese Government to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans.

The Dalai Lama has stated his willingness to accept cultural autonomy for Tibet under the Chinese Constitution. He has also been willing to negotiate with Beijing and has advanced a number of very moderate proposals regarding Tibet's future status. The Communist regime, however, has only met this attempt at accommodation with stiff opposition, and is currently instigating yet another crackdown in the lead up to the Beijing Olympics.

To date, Congress has stood strongly by the Tibetan people as they bravely struggle for their rights:

In 1991, Congress passed a resolution stating that Tibet is an occupied country.

In September of 2007, Representative ROHRBACHER introduced House Resolution 610, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Government should take immediate steps to boycott the Summer Olympic Games in Beijing in August 2008 unless the Chinese regime stops engaging in serious human rights abuses against its citizens and stops supporting serious human rights abuses by the Governments of Sudan, Burma, and North Korea against their citizens. I wholeheartedly support and cosponsor this measure.

Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER and I recently formed the Tibet Caucus and already have 8 new members.

Congress awarded the Dalai Lama the Congressional Gold Medal.

We cannot stand silently by and watch as another wave of brutality and oppression sweeps across the country by the Beijing regime. Congress must continue to stand by the Tibetan people and uphold their rights as human beings. I urge every Member of Congress to join the Tibetan Caucus, vote "yes" for House Resolution 1077, and urge the President of the United States to issue an executive order boycotting the Beijing Olympics and uphold the rights of the Tibetan people to ensure their voice is not silenced.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1077 and I want to thank the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, for her leadership and commitment to the people of Tibet. For many years, in both words and deeds, she has stood by the people of Tibet, and called for the respect and support of their dignity, culture, heritage, and religion. And I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I believe Tibet is one of the most serious human rights and political freedom issues of our time.

The violent response by Chinese military forces to peaceful protests that began in the Tibetan capital on March 11th is horrifying. I believe the United States and the international community must convey a strong condemnation of these acts, an accounting by China on the welfare and whereabouts of the many detained Buddhist monks and other Tibetan citizens who have been arrested, and facilitate access by international human rights monitors

and journalists to Tibetan areas, as requested by His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.

The State Department's 2007 Country Reports on Human Rights describes a human rights situation in China and Tibet that continues to worsen while the repression of religious freedom has increased. There is very disturbing evidence of a pre-Olympic crackdown on religious leaders, journalists and lawyers in recent months. It is long past time for the government in Beijing to respect the human rights and religion of every Tibetan. Further, as the protests in Tibet began calling for greater economic opportunity and equality, they clearly call into question China's claims that its development of Tibet advances the prosperity of Tibetans as well as the ethnic Chinese Han who have been encouraged to migrate to Tibet and establish themselves there.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have worked with many of my House colleagues to press for greater freedom for Tibet and for the release of Tibetan prisoners of conscience who have been jailed by Chinese authorities, most of whom are imprisoned for their political and cultural beliefs. Personally, I believe Tibet should be restored as an independent nation, which it was prior to China's military invasion over 50 years ago. I deeply fear that China is successfully destroying a culture, religion and national heritage that have survived for thousands of years.

The legislation before us this evening calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with his holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans. It is not a call for independence. But it is a call for the Chinese Government to respond as a mature member of the international community. I hope that Beijing will understand much is required of a nation that desires to be a leader in regional and international affairs, including the capacity to genuinely negotiate differences and find solutions that are meaningful and acceptable to all.

Madam Speaker, I have joined with my congressional colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, on matters to Chinese authorities about the recent protests in Tibet. Over the past years I have also petitioned the Chinese Government on several individual cases, the most high profile of which would be the safety and well-being of the Panchen Lama. I have also asked my own government, at the highest levels, to advocate for the release of particular prisoners and for greater freedoms for the Tibetan people. I must admit, however, that I am very frustrated by the fact that the United States, like the rest of the international community, appears to voice reverence for the Tibetan culture and religion, while standing idly by and watching it be slowly eroded and dismantled year by year by the Chinese authorities. In the meantime, China continues to pursue its policies in Tibet, knowing there is no price to pay for its actions.

This time, Madam Speaker, we must all act differently. There must be consequences for the brutal repression of Tibet. I hope the Chinese Government will heed the message of this resolution. I hope it will open a genuine dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and negotiate in good faith a just solution with and for the people of Tibet.

I promise the sponsors of this bill that I will continue to join them and speak out on these matters and press President Bush, the international community, and the Chinese Government to respect the basic human rights of the Tibetan people. And passage of H. Res. 1077 is the first step in moving this process forward.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1077, a resolution you introduced calling on the government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the language, culture, and religious identity of the Tibetan people.

Madam Speaker, freedom, dignity, and respect are universal rights that should know no boundaries. When these rights are nurtured and protected, peace, prosperity, and harmony flourish among people and nations. When these rights are restricted, repressed, and ignored, each of us has an obligation to speak out, otherwise the world suffers.

Tibet has a long history of language, culture, and religion. Since the late 1500s, the teachings of the Dalai Lama and Buddhism have played integral roles in Tibet and throughout the world. The fact that Tibetans have lived under repressive conditions since China's crackdown in 1958, which led to the deaths of more than 10,000 Tibetans and sent the 14th Dalai Lama into exile, is inexcusable.

The fact that China has failed to live up to its commitment to improve its human rights record is intolerable. The continued attempts by the Chinese Government to placate the international community with promises cannot go unchallenged any longer. If China wants to be recognized as a world leader, it should start acting like one. A good first step would be to allow for vigorous political debate rather than suppressing it.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution and thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California, Madam Speaker, for her work on this issue.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which calls upon China to end its repression in Tibet.

I would also like to commend the Speaker for her long advocacy on behalf of the rights of the Tibetan people, and for bringing this bill before the House today.

In Tibet, there is an ongoing struggle for basic human rights and human dignity. Our Nation has a moral obligation to make its views known to the Chinese Government regarding its oppression of the legitimate rights of the Tibetan people to practice their religion and express their culture.

Last month, I was honored to join Speaker PELOSI in traveling to Dharamsala. We met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, with leaders of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, and with ordinary Tibetan people who have been forced to flee their homes and seek refuge from Chinese political oppression.

I was moved by the extraordinary struggle of the Tibetan people, and the stories I heard of the brutal repression that has been taking place in that country. All the Tibetan people are seeking is their right to be able to express their culture, language, and religion.

The Dalai Lama made it absolutely clear to us that he is firmly and unequivocally committed to nonviolence, that he is not seeking independence but autonomy, and that he is

seeking peaceful dialogue with the Chinese Government. The Dalai Lama is not seeking a boycott of the Olympic Games; he is seeking to return to his homeland with his people in peace.

As I told Ambassador Zhou of China when I met with him last week, it is in the interest of China and Tibet to arrive at a lasting resolution of this dispute as soon as possible. China's reputation around the world, and its relations with other nations, will only continue to suffer if Beijing continues to ignore the world's call for action.

This resolution calls upon China to begin a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, without preconditions, to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people. I truly hope that the Chinese Government heeds this call, ends its repression of Tibetan rights, and enters into a genuine dialogue on Tibet's future.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1077 and to express my concern over recent and ongoing events in China. Since March 10th, when Tibetan protests began in Lhasa, there have been demonstrations in at least 48 locations. While there are some accounts of violent actions, most Tibetan protestors have been peaceful. Unfortunately, the Chinese government has not taken the same approach in responding to these protests and protestors. While we do not know the true number, it is estimated that at least 3,000 Tibetans may be under detention. And it is even more unclear how many people have perished because of the Chinese government's excessive response to these largely peaceful demonstrations.

The Tibetans are a peace loving and resilient people, and even under the Chinese occupation they have been able to retain their culture. Unfortunately, while responding harshly, the Chinese government has also placed blame for the situation at the feet of the Dalai Lama. This, despite the fact that none of the purported evidence is linked directly to the Dalai Lama.

As these demonstrations continue, it is important that the Chinese government distinguishes between the peaceful protestors and the rioters, and that it honor its own constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech, association, and demonstration.

Passing this resolution today sends the message to the Chinese Government that this is what we expect, and that we will not turn a blind eye to their actions. On the contrary, we are closely monitoring what occurs in Tibet and will continue to do so. As China's engagement in the international community continues to grow, we must call on the Chinese government to honor the commitments it has made to both Chinese and international law. This resolution does just that, and I strongly support its passage.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1077.

I would like to first commend the Speaker on her timely resolution that calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to open a dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Importantly, this resolution calls on the Chinese Government to release all Tibetan prisoners who were detained for their nonviolent expression of opposition to Chinese policy towards Tibet, something with which I very much agree.

In 2002, the Tibetan Policy Act was ushered through Congress under the leadership of former chairmen Lantos and Hyde, and signed into law. Amongst its components was a U.S. commitment to the economic and cultural preservation of Tibetans inside Tibet. I believe that this resolution reaffirms this commitment.

For decades, Beijing has oppressed the Tibetan people. As the State Department's most recent annual report on human rights found, tight control on religious expression and denial of other basic human rights are cause for serious concern. China's further crackdowns on peaceful protestors of the Olympic torch relay serve to further affirm the State Department's report.

At the center of international media coverage of China's crackdown on Tibetan Buddhism is Radio Free Asia, a non-profit broadcast corporation that provides alternative news sources in repressive countries. In addition to covering the abuses wrought against the Tibetans, Radio Free Asia has also documented the Chinese destruction of precious Tibetan religious relics and manuscripts. It is not just the ethnic discrimination against Tibetans that gives me pause, but also the efforts to erase their culture.

I commend Radio Free Asia on their tireless efforts to broadcast truth, and I commend you, Madam Speaker, on your work on this resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, as the Chinese Government was repressing peaceful Tibetan protests last month, I visited Dharamshala, India—the recognized home of Tibetans in exile—with Speaker Pelosi and several of my colleagues.

I had the honor and privilege to meet His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, and I was moved by the infinite patience and courage he exudes in the face of overwhelming odds. I was touched by the large population of Tibetans in exile who worry about family members they have left behind. These are people who left their homeland due to repression of religion and language by the Chinese Government and the constant violations of basic human rights and dignity in their own land.

The Speaker, along with everyone else on our trip, was incensed at the atrocities conducted by China. Our first order of business upon returning to the United States was to draft this important resolution before the House today.

Through this resolution, we call on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown on nonviolent Tibetan protestors and its continuing cultural, religious, economic, and linguistic repression inside Tibet and to begin a dialogue directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The freedom of press is something we take for granted in the United States but Tibetans unfortunately do not enjoy this privilege, as all press inside Tibet, and all of China in fact, is closely monitored and controlled by the state. This resolution calls on the Chinese Government to allow independent international monitors and journalists, free and unfettered access to Tibet.

It is clear by the conviction and sentencing of human rights activist Hu Jia, who has been an outspoken critic of the human rights record of the Chinese Government and called on the international community to hold Beijing responsible for the promises it made when bidding to host the Olympic games, that China

has no intention of unilaterally changing its human rights record. The government of China has been and continues to be an abuser of basic human rights despite the State Department decision to not include China in a list of countries that most systemically violate human rights. This resolution asks the United States Department of State to publicly issue a statement reconsidering its decision.

The cause of the Tibetan people is a desire for freedom of religion, freedom to speak their own language, and to express their unique identity. It is a cause every American can relate to. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution—to vote in support of Tibet.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we've read and seen on the news the accounting of numerous deaths following the anti-government protests in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. The proindependence protests were initiated by ethnic Tibetans commemorating the 49th anniversary of the failed 1959 uprising that sent the Dalai Lama into exile. China is now facing mounting international pressure, including the U.S., to demonstrate restraint in dealing with the dissent.

I support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to peacefully protest for independence and safeguard their distinct identity by promoting the elimination of all forms of racial, religious, and linguistic discrimination against them. The People's Republic of China, PRC, has failed miserably to guarantee the preservation of these rights for the Tibetan people and as a result, Tibetans remain plagued by poverty, illiteracy, and a limited infrastructure.

I was privileged to participate in the Speaker's congressional delegation to India last month when we visited the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala. During our visit we discussed the tragic violence that has been taking place in Tibet with the Dalai Lama and we agreed that an open dialogue with the PRC and international pressure are the most effective methods at our disposal for ending the crisis.

This resolution was born out of those discussions with the Dalai Lama. It condemns the government of the PRC for its bloody suppression of the Tibetan people and calls on the government of the PRC to invite the Dalai Lama to China for the purpose of dialogue to resolve the root causes of unrest in the Tibetan areas of China.

Free expression and the right to dissent are defining elements of a democracy. That's why it is essential for us to speak out in condemnation of China's repression of religion, its complicity in the Sudanese atrocities in Darfur and its oppression of Tibet.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today, the 2008 Olympic torch arrives for the first time on American soil. It almost didn't make it. After violence erupted in Paris and London between police and demonstrators protesting Chinese human rights abuses, there were serious discussions about ending the torch's journey across the world before it arrived in the United States.

Despite ongoing complaints by the international community about China's human rights abuses—and its restrictions on freedoms of speech—China refuses to take corrective action.

This resolution is an attempt to pressure the Chinese Government to address international concerns of human rights abuses in that coun-

try. This resolution is also a reaction to six decades of cultural and religious repression of the Tibetan people. Now is the time to bring the suffering of the Tibetan people to an end. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to encourage the People's Republic of China to enter into discussions with the Dalai Lama and respect the human rights of all its citizens.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1077.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 2030

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, this week the Nation is celebrating National Public Health Week, and I can think of no better way for this House to have begun the celebration than by the passage of today's packet of critical bipartisan public health legislation.

I commend Chairman DINGELL and Chairman PALLONE for their leadership in helping to pass this group of bills which will make a significant contribution to improving our environment and the quality of our Nation's health.

Regrettably, I was unable to return from Los Angeles in time to be a part of today's floor discussion. I am particularly pleased, however, that the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, S. 1858, as amended by my bill, H.R. 3825, was one of the public health bills that passed today.

I extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues, Congressman MICHAEL SIMPSON, TOM REYNOLDS, and HENRY WAXMAN for their original cosponsorship of H.R. 3825, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act. Their commitment and steadfast efforts have helped

make possible the passage of this significant piece of legislation.

In addition, I thank Senators DODD, ORRIN HATCH, HILLARY CLINTON, and EDWARD KENNEDY for championing the Senate companion bill, S. 1858.

I also thank the coalition of public health groups, especially the March of Dimes, for working with us over the last 4 years on this critical issue.

Madam Speaker, approximately 5,000 babies are born each year with detectable and treatable disorders. Forty years ago, these disorders would have gone undetected until symptoms appeared. This resulted in otherwise preventable deaths or lifelong suffering from disabling consequences such as mental retardation and cerebral palsy.

Today we have the ability to give a newborn baby a simple blood test that can identify many life-threatening genetic illnesses before symptoms occur. Fortunately, this early identification makes it possible to treat babies in time to prevent severe disorders, serious complications and even death.

Yet tragically in the United States, approximately 1,000 infants a year die or are permanently disabled from these treatable disorders. These preventable tragedies are largely due to the fact that our country lacks a national newborn screening standard. Without a national standard, our States have great disparity and variation in the quality and number of newborn screening tests an infant may receive.

Today's passage of Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act is a major step toward correcting these disparities because it encourages States to uniformly test for and keep updated a scientifically recommended panel of disorders. And it makes available the resources States need to expand and improve their newborn screening programs.

The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act also has the potential to save millions of dollars in health care costs for families and States because it empowers parents and health care professionals with knowledge about the importance of newborn screening and follow-up care.

In addition, the bill requires the Centers for Disease Control to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening and it establishes a system for collecting and analyzing data to help researchers develop better detection, prevention, and treatment tragedies.

Madam Speaker, by passing the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, this Congress seized an opportunity to protect vulnerable babies from undue suffering and death and to give them a chance for a long and healthy life. Once again, I thank my colleagues for voting to pass this critical piece of public health legislation.

RAPE OF A LITTLE GIRL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the early morning hours of March 2, 1998, 10 years ago, Patrick Kennedy of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, called 911 to report that his 8-year-old stepdaughter had been dragged from her garage to the side yard and raped by two neighborhood boys. Kennedy told the 911 operator that he saw one of the boys riding away from the house on a bicycle, so a sheriff's deputy that was immediately in the area responded to the complaint and started looking for the culprit, but he did not find the individual.

The deputy noticed that the crime scene in the backyard was somehow inconsistent with rape, and he noticed that the dog was still sleeping undisturbed in the grass. Be that as it may, Kennedy led the deputy to the victim, his stepdaughter's bedroom, where she was lying on the bed wearing a T-shirt and wrapped in a filthy, bloody cargo blanket.

Kennedy informed the deputy that he had carried his stepdaughter like an infant from the yard and placed her in a bathtub to clean her. But the deputy noticed there was no blood on Kennedy's clothes.

When the deputy tried to question the victim, Kennedy constantly interrupted and answered the questions for his stepdaughter. The victim said that she was trying to sell Girl Scout cookies when the two neighborhood boys dragged her from the garage and raped her on the grass nearby.

The victim was taken to Children's Hospital for emergency surgery to repair serious injuries to her body. At the hospital, the victim told hospital personnel and a psychologist that the two neighborhood boys had raped her, but she finally told a family member that Patrick Kennedy, her stepfather, had assaulted her.

The investigation began to focus on Kennedy because his story did not make any sense to the investigators. And then the police learned more about Patrick Kennedy and who he was. Before he called 911, Kennedy called his boss at a local moving company to say he wasn't going to work that morning and he asked a co-worker how to get blood out of a carpet. The co-worker later indicated at trial that Kennedy sounded nervous, and he said his stepdaughter had "just become a young lady."

Kennedy also called B&B Carpet Cleaning at 7:30, 2 hours before the 911 call, and he asked how to clean and remove blood stains from a carpet. Police then found a 1-gallon jug of carpet cleaner and the bloody towels Kennedy used to clean up his crime and hide the evidence.

A forensic lab confirmed that the victim had no grass or soil stains on her clothes so she could not have been assaulted in the grass. The victim later told her mother that Kennedy had raped her. At the trial, she testified

that when she woke up that morning, he was on top of her, covering her eyes with his hands, and that he raped her in her own bed. The victim said she fainted and later threw up.

A jury convicted Patrick Kennedy of aggravated rape of his own 8-year-old stepdaughter and sentenced him to death in Louisiana. Under Louisiana law, a person who commits sexual assault of a child under the age of 12 is subject to the death penalty. Kennedy has appealed to the Supreme Court, and next week in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, the Supreme Court will hear the case and decide if rape of a child is constitutional under the eighth amendment and whether it violates the cruel and unusual punishment provision of the eighth amendment.

No one has been executed in the United States for a crime other than murder since 1964. Of 3,000 inmates on death row, only two face the death penalty for nonhomicide, and one is Patrick Kennedy.

In addition to Louisiana, Georgia, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas have laws allowing death penalty for rape of a child. In 1977, the Supreme Court decided that the death sentence for rape of an adult woman was unconstitutional, but they never ruled on the issue of sexual assault and rape of a child. Thus, this case appears before the Supreme Court.

Louisiana has interpreted the Supreme Court's previous rulings not to apply in Louisiana because the sexual assault was of a child and that is why this case appears before the Supreme Court to make this decision.

Madam Speaker, this crime is senseless. We can sometimes understand why people commit the crime of theft, we can understand why sometimes people commit the crime of burglary, and even sometimes commit the crime of murder, but there can never be a time in our culture when we understand why a person rapes an 8-year-old girl. It is the ultimate crime of degradation. It is the ultimate type of torture, and it is the ultimate crime against little girls and their identity. It is worse than murder. And in this instance, the victim has a daily reminder of the crime that has ruined her life. It is an attempt to destroy not the life but the soul of this victim. So justice must be pronounced in this case. Society will be judged and the Supreme Court will be judged by the way it treats the innocent among us. Hopefully this case will be upheld by the Supreme Court.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WASTE AND ABUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress, my incoming class decided to concentrate on the concept of exposing waste, fraud and abuse in national government. I wish I was still doing that because with all due respect, I have struck the mother lode of waste, fraud and abuse.

Tomorrow we will debate on this floor under a rule a perfect example of abusing taxpayers, fraud on taxpayers, and wasting of taxpayers' money.

Less than 10 years ago, Secretary Babbitt established an organization called the National Land Conservation System. He said it was his idea, his hope, to move from what he called the "Bureau of Livestock and Mining," which was actually his legal responsibility, to what he wanted to be, a bureau of landscapes and monuments. He wanted this organization to emphasize and recognize the crown jewels of the Bureau of Land Management.

One has to ask: How does one actually recognize and emphasize the crown jewels of the Bureau of Land Management?

In hearings, we asked the bureau spokesman if before this entity was established, was the Bureau of Land Management incompetent in handling these goals, or of emphasizing and recognizing these lands. And the answer was, obviously, no.

So the question once again is: Why do we want tomorrow to codify and make permanent this entity which is at best redundant and is at worst simply a waste of taxpayers' money, because you see, this new entity doesn't appoint anyone. It doesn't fire anybody. It doesn't write or remove regulations. It doesn't administer or regulate. It doesn't do anything except cost the taxpayer \$50 million a year to run it.

The best argument that the proponents of this bill will have is that it doesn't change anything. In essence, it does nothing to an entity that does nothing; so why do it.

Another of the great arguments is it won't cost us a dime, except when the sponsor was asked in his State newspaper whether this new system would have more funds and regulations, his response was, "Well, you've got to establish the system, and then you go to step two."

In what actually is being purported as something that doesn't really change anything, my fear is this bill might actually do something.

The Department of Interior tentatively supports this proposal because it says it helps them to maintain the basic difference between a national park and a national monument on BLM land as opposed to a monument or park on National Park Service land. And the key element in the difference between

the two is the concept in the BLM of multiple use on the public lands.

And yet when our side tried to introduce an amendment in the committee to make sure that multiple use was one of the key values of this new system, it was defeated on a party-line vote. And when we went to the Rules Committee to try to bring this issue to the floor, it was once again defeated on a party-line vote.

The only difference between BLM and National Park Service is this concept of multiple use, and yet this is one issue that is specifically eliminated from the bill that will be in discussion tomorrow. This bill is supposed to take the status quo and make it permanent; and yet all of the problems inherent in the status quo are not solved by this particular bill. We have great issue with private in holdings on these lands, none of which is addressed.

We tried to make sure that those people who like to recreate on these lands, that no boating, no shooting areas would be diminished if this went into effect, and once again that issue was rejected on a party-line vote and not even allowed to be discussed on the House floor.

□ 2045

We talked about potential border security, and an amendment will be granted tomorrow that says we will do nothing to change what we are doing on border security on these lands which are part of our border, and that is, indeed, one of the problems because it's not the status quo we want. It is change that needs to be done.

This area is sometimes called sarcastically the Trail of Amnesty, where it's estimated that every year a quarter of a million people will go through, those who are most of the worst in the human traffickers, the drug dealers and some of our gang members.

There is one ranch that is near this area; already in a short period of time has been burglarized 16 times even though he has iron bars on the window, a security system. When he's on horseback riding his ranch he finds needles, baby clothes, two skulls, four dead bodies. No Country for Old Men looks like a soap opera compared to this territory.

It is not the status quo we need to do. It is change that is essential. And once again, nothing like this happens. When we write fuzzy and vague language we invite lawsuits against the Federal Government.

We'll have an amendment tomorrow to try to eliminate or at least limit the kinds of potential lawsuits we have. We will see what happens because, once again, that was rejected in the committee.

This national land conservation system should not be codified and made permanent; if anything, it should be eliminated as a \$50 million example of waste, fraud and abuse. The dream of Secretary Babbitt is really an expensive millstone around the neck of all taxpayers in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CANNON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I thank you. And it's indeed an honor to be here tonight to talk with my colleagues about something that's going on in the world today that is of huge import. And no, I'm not talking about who was the victor in the NCAA Final Four Basketball Tournament.

I'm not here to talk to my colleagues about who might be the winner this year of the American Idol contest, as we get closer and closer and that draws the interest of so many of television viewers throughout the country.

What I'm talking about tonight, Madam Speaker, is probably the most important thing that this country has on its plate in a long, long time, and that is the situation in the Middle East and what's going on in Iraq and Afghanistan and how important that conflict is, not just to this country and its citizens, but the region in the Middle East and, indeed, the entire world, Madam Speaker, as we continue to wage, as we have for the last 5½ years, this battle, this war against global terrorism. And ground zero, Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it, ground zero is in Iraq.

Today our commander there, of the multinational force Iraq, General David Petraeus, and the United States Ambassador, Ambassador to Iraq, Ambassador Ryan Crocker, are here in Washington, D.C. to testify before both the United States Senate and in this chamber, the United States House of Representatives, to the Armed Services Committee of both the House and the Senate, and to the Foreign Affairs Committee of both bodies. General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker spoke to the Senate today in a full, long day of testimony, and they will be speaking tomorrow to the House committees that I just mentioned.

Madam Speaker, along with yourself and many other very fortunate Members of this House of Representatives, I do serve on the Armed Services Committee, and I certainly look forward to hearing from these two great men who have served so well and for so long in a difficult part of the world, and also to have the opportunity to ask some questions, and I'm sure some of them will be tough questions, hard questions for Members of both political bodies, both the majority and the minority.

So, as I say, this opportunity tonight, on behalf of my party, the Republican minority, to take this hour and talk about this and try to explain to my colleagues that this is really, we are at a critical point in this war in the Middle East. And we have an opportunity, as I've felt for a long time, as I felt last September when General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker first came before the committees and ex-

plained that the surge that we enacted in January of 2007 is, indeed, working. And what they said last September is that we need to give it a chance.

Indeed, if you made an analogy to a sporting event, you might say that we're in the fourth quarter of a tough game, and at times, indeed, January of 2007 and several months before that, it did appear that we were losing. Members of this body and the other body in leadership positions made some pretty drastic statements, even to the extent of saying the war's lost, it's hopeless, it's a hopeless situation; we need to just pack up and come home.

But General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, last September told us, no, that is not the case because we did change courses. We listened to the recommendations of the Iraqi Study Group, co-chaired by a very prominent Democrat and Republican, and we listened very carefully to their recommendations in regard to what needed to be done. And this surge of about 30,000 additional troops has certainly given us the opportunity to regain control and get the upper hand against these Islamic extremists and thugs that could, and would, and are determined not only to destroy Iraq, but to make that country the base of their support. And, yes, of course I'm talking about al Qaeda.

Anyone who thinks, Madam Speaker, that Iraq is not ground zero now for al Qaeda simply is ignoring the words of Osama bin Laden.

So we are, as General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker said, we are at a very critical point. And today, the evidence will show, and during this next 45 to 60 minutes of time that me and some of my colleagues on our side of the aisle will have to discuss this, we are going to present the evidence that we are succeeding. We have not won yet, but we're ahead in the fourth quarter, and this is certainly not the time to pull our team off the field and say, well, you know, they're tired, they're stressed; the ranks are thin. It's cost us too much money. And hey, you know, we may have some conflict break out somewhere else in the world, and we have to be ready for that. Maybe 6 months from now, maybe a year from now, maybe 10 years from now.

So this approach, strategy of giving up something that we have almost won, after sacrificing 4,000 killed in action, and closer to 20,000 of our brave men and women severely wounded, and an untold number, maybe as many as 100,000 Iraqi civilians who have also given their lives for the cause, it makes no sense to this Member, Madam Speaker, that you would give up at such a critical, crucial time.

So what we're going to talk about tonight is really four things. I want to concentrate on four things. And as I say, hopefully, a number of my colleagues will be able to finish up their previous engagements and be here with me on the floor, because these Members are members of the Armed Serv-

ices Committee and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States House of Representatives. And they, Madam Speaker, know of what they speak.

And what we're going to do is break it down, as I say, into four areas of discussion. The first area would be to talk about where are we today? What difference has a year made? Actually, it's a little more than a year. January of 2007. But it took until October, just this past fall, to get all of the additional troops and their support, logistical support into the theater. And you really couldn't expect a lot of change in the battle until we got the full force of those 30,000 additional troops. And you, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, we all refer to that as the surge. And this was what was recommended by General Petraeus.

And so we're going to talk about it, what a difference a year makes, and talk about some of the statistics about overall violence and progress. And the statistics don't lie. You can't put spin on numbers. Numbers are what they are. And I think the numbers, when we finish this special order hour, Madam Speaker, I think my colleagues will agree that by any standard, any parameter, any metric that I talk about, you'd have to say that the surge that was essentially envisioned, planned by General Petraeus, is, indeed, working, maybe even far better than he expected.

And the second thing that I'll talk about is, what would victory look like? You know, we're on track. We're not there yet. I think it would be presumptuous, maybe even naive of me to say that we have victory in our grasp, or to suggest that the mission is over, we won. No, we're not there yet.

And I think the violence that broke out recently in Basra, the second largest city in Iraq, after Baghdad, the port city where every drop of oil that's taken out of the ground, those 2½ to 3 million barrels a day from the reserves in the country of Iraq, they flow out of that port at Basra. And there's been a lot of violence there. And, you know, that's some disappointing news after we have had a string of several months of good news and great statistics.

But we know from that little wake-up call that there's still a lot of work to be done. Unfortunately, as has been the case in so many conflicts throughout the course of the history of our country, we have had to take the lead so many times. And we have had strong allies, certainly, the Brits have been a great ally of ours throughout history, and continue to be. But the fact is that they're citizens are, they're not as supportive, maybe, from time to time, as we would like for them to be.

□ 2100

And it's very difficult for their parliament to keep troops as part of our multinational force. There are some in Basra, but something like a thousand British troops were removed from that

critical area, which they have had responsibility for since day one of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A lot of those troops were brought home for political reasons in September of 2007, and it weakened our situation in Basra. We are paying the price today, I think, because of that, but we will talk about these statistics, and we will certainly talk about what victory would look like.

The third point that I am going to ask my colleagues to discuss, and I will discuss as well, is the fact that despite these overwhelming statistics and the progress that we've made, there are Members in this body, in this town, the media, voices, that say and continue to say, it is not worth it. It is not worth it. It is not worth the lives that we have sacrificed. It is not worth the money that we've spent. Even achieving victory is not worth it. We need to bring the troops home and spend that money on social welfare programs, on health care for everybody, and maybe a \$5,000 tax rebate for every man, woman, and child in the country. There are other things that we could do to spend that \$10 billion a month that this war is costing us. Now, I want to talk about that, and we will get into it.

And then lastly, and maybe most important tonight, we will talk about the consequences of failure, the consequences of withdrawal, which I am absolutely convinced, if done prematurely, will lead, inevitably, to failure.

So we will conclude by talking about the consequences of that. And I think, as my colleagues listen, it will be quite sobering to them as they think in their mind and understand, and this is an intelligent body of 435 great Americans, of people who have served this country well and representing their districts well, but sometimes we need a wake-up call. Sometimes we really, Mr. Speaker, need a wake-up call. And that's why we do these Special Orders on both sides of the aisle.

But tonight, I don't think there really is anything more important to talk about than the situation in the Middle East, and I'm proud to have this opportunity, and it's a great honor and a privilege.

I see my colleague from Tennessee, one of my classmates who joined with me in the 110th Congress. We were both elected in 2002. We both had served, me in the State of Georgia, she in the State of Tennessee, in the General Assembly; and we are part of a proud group of, I think there were 53 freshmen back in 2003 as we got here. And we all, I'm sure, felt like we had the answers to all problems and that we were going to solve all of the country's problems and the world's problems. And I can tell you that we haven't, but we haven't given up, and we will continue to work hard.

So it's an honor to be joined now by the gentlewoman from Tennessee, my good friend and outstanding Member, MARSHA BLACKBURN.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman from Georgia, and Mr. Speaker, he just touched on something I think is so very important.

Every once in a while, we need a wake-up call, and I think that is indeed true. And today has been a very serious day. This week is a very serious week here on Capitol Hill. And as I entered the Capitol again this evening to participate in our Special Order hour, I was struck by this stillness of the surroundings, the serene feelings of the Capitol as you walk in and as you look at the paintings and at the statues, making my way over to the chamber, reminded of those who have loved this Nation and loved the freedoms that we all enjoy and that allow us to stand in this chamber and participate in debate and to bring forward ideas and talk about what is a good idea and what is a bad idea.

And indeed, as the gentleman from Georgia said, every once in a while we need a wake-up call and a reminder that freedom is an idea that definitely has served this Nation well. It, Mr. Speaker, is an idea that serves all of the nations of the world very well. It is something that people all over the globe seek to have.

We have had discussion on this floor tonight about Tibet and the desire there to live in freedom, to worship freely. Many of us have watched the Iraqi people move forward with elections freely and willingly. Some of us travel to other nations to participate as we watch people seek to go in large numbers to the ballot box in their nation to freely vote.

I was struck a little bit earlier today, and I think it was more or less a wake-up call for me, Mr. Speaker. I stood in the shadow of the Capitol on the Senate side with a group called Vets for Freedom. I have had the opportunity to spend some time with them as they have told their stories about the success, the success stories, if you will, of what is happening on the ground in Iraq. And today they were joined by Senator MCCAIN, Senator LIEBERMAN, and other Members of the Senate, several of us from the House, including one of our most distinguished Members and a former prisoner of war, SAM JOHNSON, the honorable gentlemen from the great State of Texas.

And it was amazing to stand there and look into the faces of these veterans who have been willing to put it all on the line for freedom, to put it all on the line to protect this great Nation. And then to give actions to, again, to the actions they've carried out, to the words and the stories they're telling, and again, to take an action of coming here and coming to the Capitol and meeting with the Members of this body and to stand and support General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker as they reported to our Nation, to say we've been there, we've carried out the heavy lift, and indeed, freedom is worth the fight.

They've also made it very clear that America now has the opportunity to

achieve our fundamental objectives in Iraq through the establishment of a peaceful, stable, secular, democratic State which will be a reliable ally in the struggle against both Sunni and Shiite terrorism. Establishing this ally would allow America to reorient our position in the Middle East away from a position that relies on anti-democratic States to a position based on a strong democratic partner whose citizens have explicitly rejected al Qaeda and terrorism in general and have chosen freedom.

Today, General Petraeus reported to the Senate on his progress. Tomorrow, the House will hear from the general.

What we've learned so far is that levels of violence and civilian deaths have been reduced substantially. Al Qaeda Iraq, and other extremist elements, have been dealt serious and damaging blows. The capabilities of the Iraqi security forces have grown. Indeed, the involvement of local Iraqis and local security has been noteworthy. The forces are growing, and indeed, the Iraqis have carried out their own surge, Mr. Speaker.

Americans are well aware the additional U.S. forces that deployed to Iraq as part of the surge and our great Nation's part there. What is less understood well is that Iraqi forces surged, adding over 100,000 additional soldiers and police to their very own security forces in 2007.

There has been a shift in attitude among certain elements of the Iraqi population. The Sunni communities in Iraq increasingly have rejected al Qaeda's indiscriminate violence and extremist ideology. They recognize that they cannot share in the new Iraq if they don't participate in the political arena. That, Mr. Speaker, is a major step forward.

Over time, these awakenings have prompted tens of thousands of Iraqis, some former insurgents, to contribute to local security as sons of Iraq. There are 91,000 sons of Iraq Shia, as well as Sunni, under contract to help coalition and Iraqi forces protect their own neighborhoods. Again, they are taking the lead.

Al Qaeda's leadership, who still see Iraq as the central front in a global strategy, send funding, instructions, and foreign fighters to Iraq. Iraq's ethno-sectarian conflict in many areas is taking place through debate rather than through violence. That is another turn that we have seen. Security incidents are at a level not seen since early 2005, and civilian deaths have decreased to a level not seen before the mosque bombings in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, these are all items that are being reported to us of successes, military successes, that are taking place; and indeed, the gentleman from Georgia has mentioned some of these, has touched on some of the trends that we are seeing; and I know he's going to spend a little bit of time this evening going back and looking at these steps that tell the story of what is happening on the ground.

And as we see this take place, we see a population that is, indeed, beginning to feel safe to leave their homes. And once you're safe to leave your home, then you can start to work to make certain that your neighborhood is safe and then you make certain that your province is safe. All of this leads to a safer and free Iraq.

We know that the Iraqi parliament is making some progress, and as the gentleman from Georgia detailed some of the stats tonight, these are going to be items that will be included as we look.

Mr. GINGREY. The gentlewoman remembers, I think we all remember, hopefully, that last year the Congress asked for the Iraqi government to meet certain benchmarks. And this is exactly what Representative BLACKBURN is talking about now in regard to certain laws that their parliament would need to pass. It was sort of like a, you know, we'll only continue to help you if you promise by a date certain that you will have provincial elections, that you will pass a de-Ba'athification law, which essentially meant that those Sunnis, those brave soldiers that we are calling now and referring to as sons of Iraq, and as I say, mostly Sunnis, that they would have an opportunity to be included, maybe to be officially a part of the Iraqi security force.

So the government had to get over the fact that there was this rivalry, if you will, between the Shias in the majority and the Sunnis in the minority and the Sunnis led by the brutal dictator. Saddam Hussein had suppressed, oppressed, murdered so many of the Shias for so many years of his reign of terror that it's difficult to all of a sudden reach out an olive branch, but that's what we asked them to do in regard to de-Ba'athification, and I think it's important. And also asking them to share the oil revenue with all parts of the country, not just where the oil is found in the oil-rich Kurdish region but also in the west where there's very little oil and in the south as you have sharing.

□ 2115

So that's what the gentlewoman is talking about, and I yield back to her.

I just wanted to say that, and I'll make this one last point before I yield back, if the gentlewoman will bear with me just a second. It was said that those benchmarks needed to be met before we would provide additional troops and security and help stabilize things on the ground. But you couldn't have an effective parliament, an effective government until the people on the ground, in the towns, in the villages felt that their new government that they voted for could protect them, that had the ability, had the military strength, had the training that they felt secure and that they could go forward with this government. So the provision of security on the ground was first and foremost, and that's what the surge was all about.

I yield back to the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And he's exactly right. Security on the ground, a secure and stable environment. And that is what the counterinsurgency strategy has been about, and the results that it has yielded.

As we have just discussed, indeed, and as Americans know well, we had a surge from our troops. The Iraqis also carried out their surge, and what it has yielded is an environment where not only we saw the military progress, but also where political progress can take place. And there are some wonderful lessons learned here.

I think that one of those, when we are in Iraq visiting with our troops and working with some of the Iraqis and helping to mentor some of the women that we have mentored over there, one of the things they will tell you is, we are so glad that you have not left us. Thank you for not leaving us. We know people are frustrated. We know there are no guarantees. But we also know that it is important that we keep at it. It's not going to happen overnight. And thank you, thank you for not leaving. We fear what would happen if you left.

And they are, as the gentleman from Georgia was saying, Mr. Speaker, they are seeing progress. The Iraq parliament is seeing progress. And as the gentleman just listed some things, and let me touch on them again, a pension law for regime officials, that has happened. De-Ba'athification reform, that has been carried out. An amnesty law, provincial election laws. And as he said, the sharing, the national government now sharing oil revenues with the provinces, something that a year ago many people said, it will never happen. But, here we are, and yes, indeed, it all is beginning to take place.

I yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. Well, again, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee. And I would like to reemphasize the statistics that she was talking about that we said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, of this hour that we're going to talk about what a difference that a year makes and present those statistics, how particularly violence has decreased. And Representative BLACKBURN has already talked about that.

But I would ask my colleagues to reference this first slide in regard to its title. This is a little difficult to see in the back of the Chamber, but "Civilian Deaths." And it is amazing, if you look at this top line going back to January of 2006 and then coming forward almost to present day, March of 2008, and you see that about the time of the surge, that peaked the civilian deaths. We're talking about on an almost monthly basis, 4,000 civilian deaths. I think if you follow the line down, that would be about January or February of 2007. And in March of 2008, at the far side of the chart, you're looking at a number just slightly over 600. So to go from almost 4,000 deaths to 600. And I have some additional charts to basically show the

same thing, again, the statistics that we promised to present at the outset of the hour, to show you what a difference a year makes.

And this slide, my colleagues, says "High Profile Attacks," basically explosions. And the blue line is the total. The next, I guess you would call that the brown graph, is car bombs. The red is suicide car bombs. And then on the bottom is suicide deaths. But this is a total. And that's where the rubber meets the road in these statistics.

And again, about a year ago, you were talking about attacks occurring in the range of 125 a day. And until this recent outbreak in Basra, they were down to about 40 a day. So, again, as I said at the outset, by any measure, by any parameter, any metric you want to take, the success of the surge is obvious.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. GINGREY. I will be glad to yield. I will make one further point, and then I will yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

These success stories you don't see on the nightly news. I think it was Ann Murray that sang a very famous hit a number of years ago, and I think the title of that was "A Little Good News Today." You don't hear about good news because, by definition, it's not news. It's only mayhem and violence and killings and rapes and people putting their children in the trunk of a car and leaving them there for a day as a disciplinary action for some minor infraction. These are the kind of things that are on the front pages of our newspapers and on the 24-hour news service. They only talk about it when there's violence. Unfortunately, there's not much credit given to a little good news, in fact, a lot of good news.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And he has shown us some great charts, civilian deaths, the coalition data, the high profile attacks with the suicide car bombings, the car bombs, the suicide attacks, the weapons caches that are found and cleared. And when you look at the fact that we are finding many more weapons caches than we were and when you look at the fact that the attacks are down and the deaths are down, you have to ask, how did this happen? And the way it has happened is our men and women in uniform, and God bless them all, and I think about my constituents from Fort Campbell who are deployed right now, who are in both Iraq and Afghanistan, but the men and women in uniform who are taking the lead and who are gaining the trust of the Iraqi people and of the Iraqi forces and of the Sons of Iraq. And it is our men and women in uniform, as they gain this trust, and as the Iraqis know we're not going to quit, they are telling them, this is what I know, this is where you go to root out this evil person, this is where

you go to root out this weapons cache, this is where you go to get this information. Because they know that we are their partner in success and we are their partner in freedom.

And it really begs the question, and as I visited with some of the veterans that have come to spend some time with us today, this really begs the question, when you look at the data and when you have this discussion, can we afford to give up on a war where we are winning, that our military men and women tell us that they are seeing some successes every single day? Can you afford to give up? And how would history remember it if you did give up?

I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. GINGREY. And I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for those very intelligent remarks and understanding of what is going on. She has added so much to this hour.

We're getting into the final third of our time. And I'm very pleased that one of my colleagues, a freshman, it's hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, indeed, that he is a freshman because his wisdom is far beyond that. He serves with me on the Armed Services Committee. He will be there tomorrow when General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker testify to us, to the House Armed Services Committee.

At this point, I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Colorado, Representative DOUG LAMBORN.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his kind introduction and for his leadership in bringing this issue before the American people tonight. I also thank the gentlelady from Tennessee for her intelligent remarks as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support and recognize the tremendous efforts of the men, women and leaders of our Armed Forces. The progress made in Iraq is undeniable. The surge is working. And as General Petraeus said today before the Senate Armed Services Committee, the men and women of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces have themselves surged, determined to make Iraq a safe, secure and self-determined nation.

The surge in Iraq is working, but America's job is not complete. We must continue our mission until true freedom and stability are obtained in Iraq. To stop or pull back now would be irresponsible and reckless, risking American and Iraqi lives and the national security of both nations.

Reducing our presence in Iraq at this point would quickly undo the valuable progress that has taken years to achieve. As General Petraeus said before the Senators, it is a fragile situation, and it is easily reversible. To pull back now would communicate to terrorists that America has given up and does not have the stamina or commitment to persevere in the global war on jihadist terror.

The decision on when to reduce the presence of our troops must be based on winning the peace for the people of Iraq, not political whim that overlooks

the successes of our military. But it must not be based on artificial timelines proposed by politicians in Washington as opposed to the considered judgment of the commanders in the field. History will not forgive us if we choose to lose a war we can win.

Precipitous withdrawal now means future generations of Americans and Iraqis will be forced to pay for our giving up victory at a time when we are not only achieving success, but when the people of Iraq themselves are rising up against the influence of terrorists and sectarian ideals in order to create an Iraqi state based on self-determination and freedom.

The right thing to do is to support our service men and women and General Petraeus in their mission in Iraq. I, too, would like to bring our troops home, but not at the price of providing a safe haven for terrorists and allowing terrorists to claim victory.

To quit now would be a disservice to those who have sacrificed in so many ways, but especially to America's sons and daughters who have given so much, and in some cases paid the ultimate price for our security and the freedom of the people in Iraq as well.

So I join with my colleague from Georgia. I, too, look forward to listening to the two gentlemen tomorrow, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker, as they describe what has been going on. And I look forward to the opportunity to ask questions and get to the bottom of things that are going on. But I know that I can say what I've just said now with full confidence because I've been watching what's happening in the news and I've been getting the reports up until now, just as my colleague from Georgia has.

I yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY. Well, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for being with us. And I hope that if time permits, he can remain with us for some of the additional time. I would be happy to yield to him if you'll just let me know. But, again, he is a member of the House Armed Services Committee, and indeed, he knows of what he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, the testimony today that went on with the Senate Armed Services Committee was very telling. We are all busy on this side of the Capitol with committee meetings and other responsibilities, so you don't have the time to sit there glued to the television set and watch every single member ask questions of General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. But I was able, on occasion, to hear some of the dialogue and the exchange. And I want to share just a little bit of that, Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues at this time. And this poster, this slide that I have, you can reference what I'm talking about.

Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, the senior Senator from the great State of South Carolina where I spent most of my youth, I live and represent Georgia proudly now, but Senator GRAHAM, for-

merly a Member of this body, the House of Representatives, and now serving so well in the United States Senate, asked this question of General Petraeus: "Is it fair to say that when Muslims will stand by us and fight against bin Laden, his agents and sympathizers, that we're safer? Is it fair to say that?"

□ 2130

And General Petraeus's response: "Absolutely." It only took one word, my colleagues, "absolutely," we are safer.

And Ambassador Crocker responded this morning in a similar manner, and let me give his quote: "In the little over a year that I have been in Iraq, we have seen a significant degradation of al Qaeda's presence and its abilities. Al Qaeda is our mortal and strategic enemy. So to the extent that al Qaeda's capacities have been lessened in Iraq, and they have been significantly lessened, I do believe that makes America safer." And this is the direct quote from Ambassador Crocker's testimony this morning before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

We will get into now the third point that I said, Mr. Speaker, at the outset of the hour that I wanted to emphasize, and that's the question of is it worth it? Despite the progress that we have talked about tonight that General Petraeus told the Senate this morning, there are those who would ignore that progress and still as they did last September. Maybe it was a more credible argument then. Of course, they were making it before the surge had even gotten there, not really giving it much of a chance. But today to argue for immediate withdrawal and to give up, to snatch defeat literally from the jaws of victory, that's basically what they're saying: It's not worth it. It's not worth it. It's time to quit. And this is what General Petraeus said this morning, another quote, and I share it with my colleagues:

"I do believe it's worth it. I took on the task," and just like General Petraeus he would say this, "the privilege of command of Multi-National Force Iraq because I do believe that it's worth it and I do believe the interests there are of enormous importance, again, to our country, not just the people of Iraq and the people of that region, and the world." That's a quote taken from General Petraeus's testimony this morning.

I am pleased at this time, Mr. Speaker, to yield to another one of my classmates, the gentleman from Iowa, Representative STEVE KING. Representative KING is not only on the Armed Services Committee, but I do believe he's on the Committee on Foreign Affairs. And he is extremely knowledgeable about foreign affairs, about national defense, about so many critical issues. So it's indeed a pleasure to welcome this evening another of my classmates, the distinguished gentleman from Iowa, Representative KING.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia and appreciate your yielding, Mr. GINGREY.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to join with my colleagues to raise our voices in unison in support of our Commander in Chief and the Commander of the Iraqi forces, General Petraeus, with whom I have had a significantly long working relationship for quite some time, and for all the troops that have fallen in line behind the Commander in Chief and behind General Petraeus all the way out across the board.

I have personally made five trips to Iraq. I've been to Afghanistan. Each time that I go over there, I stop in at Landstuhl. I visit the wounded. I see the price that's being paid. I see the dedication in their eyes. And I believe it's a little stronger in the eyes of those at Landstuhl than it is in those who are standing at attention in Iraq or those that are on duty in Iraq. But all them, all of them, have put their lives on the line. They are all volunteers.

And I think back to a time at a Thanksgiving dinner in Baghdad actually, and the command sergeant major gave me that look that was like I'd like to talk to you off on the side. And I walked over to the side, and he said, I know war is expensive, but we're all volunteers here. We are not just volunteers for this mission. We have volunteered since the beginning of this war, and we all knew that we had a very high likelihood of being deployed here. We want to come here. And I volunteered for this because I want to take this fight from my children and my grandchildren. I want it done in my time. I know war is expensive, but you can't say "no" to us. You cannot pull us out now, not after this sacrifice, not this time. We have got to finish this fight that's before us.

And that's a conversation I will never forget, and I will never forget the look in his eye as he delivered that to me. That's some of the best that we have, our command sergeant majors. And this one fried that into my memory. And I think he has expressed for the fighting men and women over there what they want us all to hear on the floor of Congress and what they want the American people to know. If they're willing to take the risk, if they're willing to provide the sacrifice, how are we to say "no"?

Mr. GINGREY. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I will yield right back to the gentleman, but I think his point is just so well taken.

This morning, I started the day at 8 o'clock in the morning with a rally in the park on the Senate side, and it was organized by a group called Veterans For Freedom, Vets For Freedom. And 400 of them, 400, were there to give us that very message that Representative KING is talking about, that it is worth it, it is worth it, and to beg us, literally to beg us. And I am sure, my col-

leagues, Mr. Speaker, you will be hearing from them. We will all be hearing from them. I did today. The members from Georgia that are part of the Veterans For Freedom are here, and they're going to make sure that we hear that message loud and clear.

And I yield back to my friend.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Georgia. And I just left a table of marines that are all on multiple tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, and a couple of them were decorated with Purple Hearts and serving in places like Fallujah. And you look them in the eye, and you see what they're asking us to do: Just back us. Just stand behind us. Don't undermine us. Stand behind us.

I take us back to the Vietnam war. I picked up the book written by General Giap, who was credited with what they call their victory for the Vietnamese, for North Vietnam. In that book on page 8, as I recall the page, page 8, there's a little phrase in there where he says they got our first inkling that we could defeat the United States when we saw that they didn't press for a total victory in Korea. A negotiated settlement in Korea gave Vietnam the inspiration to fight the war against us not only on the ground in Vietnam, where they paid multiple prices in lives beyond ours, but to do it in the public airwaves across the country. The protests that went on in the streets here and across in Europe were all part of their war strategy. The liberal media undermining the effort was all part of their war strategy. That doesn't mean they called the shots for the media, but they were complicit in this. And as the will of the American people was broken down by biased information and sometimes misinformation, they understood this: The bottom line in the book Principles of War by von Clausewitz, a summary of his analysis is the object of war is to defeat the will of the enemy.

So the voices that come out from this side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, are the voices of defeat, not the voices of victory. They are undermining the will of the American people. The press is playing into that. We should be standing with our troops.

And I walked down the steps in the Cannon building, and I presume he was a veteran. He reached up and he said, "Support our troops," and shook my hand. And I said, "I will and I will continue to be there." But I missed a beat or I would have said "and their mission" because you can't support the troops without supporting their mission. You can't ask people to go off and put their lives on the line for something you don't believe in.

I believe in this. The Iraqi people believe in this. And today they know something they didn't know a year ago or 4 years ago, two big points that they understand, that's part of their national understanding: One is the Americans and the coalition forces are not there to occupy. We don't want to be there to occupy. We want them to have

their freedom. The second thing is we're not there for the oil, or we would have taken it by now. We want the Iraqi people to live and breathe free.

Yesterday I had a lunch with an individual who was instrumental in bringing Benazir Bhutto to Iowa as she gave a keynote address shortly after September 11. I sat down with her on a couch afterwards one on one, and I asked her, How do we get to the point of victory? How do we defeat al Qaeda and our enemy?

And her answer was, You've got to give them freedom. You've got to give them a chance at democracy. If you do that, they'll change their focus from hatred towards taking care of their families, their communities, their neighborhoods, their jobs, and their mosques.

And I look back on that conversation. Sadly, we have lost her, her voice for freedom, but there is a piece of wisdom in that that the American people need to understand. Iraqi people are now breathing free. They weren't free before. The Afghani people are breathing free. They weren't free there ever. Today there are 50 million people that are free because of the sacrifice of U.S. and coalition troops and because of the inspiration that we provide for the world, and that is a very big thing to hand on to the next generations.

And as we watch the Bush administration move towards that last month in office, and we have many months to go yet, but when it gets to that point, I'm going to say this: I believe history will treat President Bush a lot more kindly than the media has treated him in this time when they write objectively what it means to have the strong leadership in the Commander in Chief, to have an all-volunteer military that's doing a better job than we could have ever asked anybody to do, and they say let us finish our task. The Iraqis say let us finish our task. They're paying their price. We need to hold up our end of this bargain, and we need to support General Petraeus.

And I yield back to the gentleman from Georgia, and I thank him.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman from Iowa so much for being with us.

As we rapidly approach the conclusion of this hour, I wanted to make a few other points. The gentleman from Iowa spoke of it when he said we are not there for their oil. We are not there for their land. We're not there for anything except to try to bring a democracy to the Middle East. And you think about the history of this country in other battles that we have been in, in World War I in Belleau Wood, in World War II on the beaches of Normandy, or in the Argonne Forest, in the Korean war, in the rice paddies of Vietnam or the sands of Iwo Jima, whom were we fighting for, and what did we ask for in return? We were fighting for other people as much as we were fighting for ourselves, and the only thing that this country asked for in return was a little

bit of dirt to bury our dead. We don't bury our fallen soldiers anymore on foreign soil, but that's really all we ever asked for.

The 4,000 that we have lost in this battle, how can we possibly turn our back on them? How can we turn our back on the Veterans For Freedom that I talked about that we met this morning?

And, Mr. Speaker, I have sufficient time, and I hope you will allow me to read these 25 names from my district, the 11th of Georgia, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict to bring a little bit of democracy to the Middle East. And let me read quickly, Mr. Speaker:

Sergeant Michael Hardegree from Villa Rica; Lance Corporal Samuel Large, Jr., also from Villa Rica; Specialist Joshua Dinger from Hiram, Georgia; Sergeant Paul Saylor from Bremen; Captain Hayes Clayton from Marietta, my home; Private First Class Jesus Fonseca, Marietta; Lance Corporal Stephen Johnson, Marietta; Airman First Class Antoine Holt, Georgia; Sergeant Brian Ardron, Acworth; Private First Class Marquis Whitaker from Columbus; Staff Sergeant John McGee, Columbus; Sergeant First Class David Salie from Columbus; Corporal Tyler Dickens, Columbus.

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Staff Sergeant Rickey Scott, Columbus, Georgia; Corporal John Tanner, Columbus, Georgia; Sergeant Thomas Strickland, Douglasville, Georgia; Spec. Marvin Camposiles, Austell; Spec. Benjamin Bartlett, Jr., Manchester, Georgia; Lance Corporal Juan Lopez, Whitfield; Private John M. Henderson, Jr., from Columbus; First Lieutenant Michael Fasnacht, from Columbus; Lance Corporal Kristopher C. Warren, from Resaca; Specialist Justin Johnson, from Rome, Georgia; First Lieutenant Tyler Brown, president of the student body at Georgia Tech, died in Iraq, from Atlanta, Georgia; Jack Hensley, a civilian contractor from Marietta, Georgia was beheaded by the brutality known as al Qaeda.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude my time, again, I thank you for allowing me to read those names.

And my colleagues, I hope that some of those families are listening because I pledge to you we will not turn our back on them. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice. You are continuing to pay the sacrifice, but God bless you for the support of this commander in chief and with your patience and our determination here in Congress, we will give victory a chance, and we will achieve victory.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 10.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. RICHARDSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 14 and 15.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, April 9 and 10.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, April 15.

Mr. TANCREDI, for 5 minutes, today, April 9 and 10.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 14 and 15.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today and April 9.

Mr. CANNON, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

A Concurrent Resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5866. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Armenia to the List of Regions Where African Swine Fever Exists [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0142] received March

27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5867. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Debt Management — received February 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5868. A letter from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cultivated Wild Rice Crop Insurance Provisions (RIN: 0563-AC00) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5869. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No. FEMA-B-7766] received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5870. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations — received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5871. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5872. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — HUD Office of Hearings and Appeals; Conforming Changes To Reflect Organization Regulations [Docket No. FR-5185-F-01] (RIN: 2501-AD35) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5873. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Lending Limits [Docket No. OCC-2008-0005] (RIN: 1557-AD08) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5874. A letter from the General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — National Service Criminal History Checks (RIN: 3045-AA44) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5875. A letter from the Under Secretary Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Implementation of Nondiscretionary WIC Certification and Nondiscretionary WIC Certification and General Administrative Provisions [FNS-2007-0009] (RIN: 0584-AD73) received March 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5876. A letter from the Director, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Asbestos Exposure Limit (RIN: 1219-AB24) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5877. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Exempt Anabolic Steroid Products [Docket No. DEA-289F] (RIN: 1117-AB04) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5878. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Elimination of FERC Form No. 423 [Docket No. RM07-18-000; Order No. 709] received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5879. A letter from the Chief, Administrative Law Division, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5880. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5881. A letter from the General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Corporation for National and Community Service Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension (RIN: 3045-AA48) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5882. A letter from the General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (RIN: 3045-AA42) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5883. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5884. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5885. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5886. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2007, summarizing data and analysis of complaints filed for the past five fiscal years and how the Department is working to fulfill the requirements of the Act, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203 of Title II; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5887. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Departments' Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5888. A letter from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report on the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5889. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's Annual Management Report for the fiscal year ended

September 30, 2007, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5890. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174, for Fiscal Year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5891. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5892. A letter from the Commissioner, International Boundary and Water Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5893. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5894. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5895. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Fiscal Year 2007 annual report on statistical data relating to Federal sector equal employment opportunity complaints filed with the Office, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5896. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5897. A letter from the Acting Chief Administrative Office, Patent and Trademark Office, transmitting the Office's FY 2007 Annual Report required by Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5898. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for FY 2007 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5899. A letter from the EEO Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting a report about the Commission's activities in FY 2007 to ensure accountability for antidiscrimination and whistleblower laws related to employment, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203 of Title II; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5900. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting a copy of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5901. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reporting Amendments [Docket No. MMS-2008-MRM-0021] (RIN: 1010-AD20) received March 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5902. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No. 071218860-8246-02] (RIN: 0648-AW26) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5903. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG24) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5904. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 071106671-8010-02] (RIN: 0648-XG00) received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5905. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XD68) received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5906. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XF57) received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5907. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Elephant Trunk Scallop Access Area to General Category Scallop Vessels [Docket No. 060314069-6138-002] (RIN: 0648-XG29) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5908. A letter from the Acting Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Petitions Filed on Behalf of H-1B Temporary Workers Subject to or Exempt From the Annual Numerical Limitation [CIS No. 2434-07; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2007-0060] (RIN: 1615-AB68) received

March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5909. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Immigrants and Nonimmigrants—Visa Classification Symbols [Public Notice: Docket No.] received March 26, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5910. A letter from the Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indian Reservation Road Bridge Program [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2007-27536] (RIN: 2125-AF20) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5911. A letter from the Acting Director of Regulations, DOT/PHMSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Administrative Procedures, Address Updates, and Technical Amendments [Docket No. PHMSA-2007-0033] (RIN: 2137-AE29) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5912. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Enhanced Airworthiness Program for Airplane Systems/Fuel Tank Safety (EAPAS/FTS); Final Rule [Docket No.: FAA-2004-18379; Amendment Nos. 1-60, 21-90, 25-123, 26-0, 91-297, 121-336, 125-53, 129-43] (RIN: 2120-AI31) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5913. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Airworthiness Certification of New Aircraft [Docket No. FAA-2003-14825; Amendment No. 21-88] (RIN: 2120-AH90) received April 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5914. A letter from the Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites [Docket No. FHWA-2005-22884] (RIN: 2125-AF14 and 2132-AA83) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5915. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties [Docket No. NHTSA-2007-28445; Notice 2] (RIN: 2127-AK07) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5916. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Puerto Rican Tobacco Products and Cigarette Papers and Tubes Shipped From Puerto Rico to the United States (2007R-368P) [T.D. TTB-68; Re: T.D. ATF-444 and Notice No. 912] (RIN: 1513-AB38) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5917. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Reissuance Standards for State and Local Bonds [Notice 2008-41] received March 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5918. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amplification of Notice 2006-27 Certification of

Energy Efficient Home Credit [Notice 2008-35] received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5919. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amplification of Notice 2006-28 Energy Efficient Home Credit; Manufactured Homes [Notice 2008-36] received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5920. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Action on Decision SUBJECT: Herbert V. Kohler, Jr. et al. v. Commissioner; T.C. Memo. 2006-152; 92 T.C.M. (CCH) 48; T.C. Dkt. Nos. 4621-03, 4622-03, 4646-03, 4649-03 [IRB No.: 2008-9] received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5921. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 601.601: Rules and Regulations. (Also Part I, 25, 103, 143; 1.25-4T, 1.103-1, 6a.103A-2.) (Rev. Proc. 2008-19) received March 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5922. A letter from the Program Manager, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Modification to the Weighting Methodology Used to Calculate the Low-income Benchmark Amount [CMS-4133-F] (RIN: 0938-AP25) received April 1, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

5923. A letter from the Boards of Trustees, Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2008 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund And Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395i(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. —102); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1198. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss; with an amendment (Rept. 110-565). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1237. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-566). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1418. A bill to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs; with an amendment (Rept. 110-567). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2464. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in emer-

gency medical services for children; with an amendment (Rept. 110-568). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3701. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults; with an amendment (Rept. 110-569). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3825. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-570). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2063. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 110-571 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1083. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-572). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1084. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2016) to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-573). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Education and Labor discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2063 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. REYES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOREN, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLAY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 5714. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in

American society, from the Colonial period to today; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. McKEON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HARE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. WU, and Mr. SESTAK):

H.R. 5715. A bill to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 5716. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayer protection and assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCOTTER (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H.R. 5717. A bill to establish a reward system to provide monetary awards to individuals who provide information relating to violations of the CAN-SPAM Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. KUCINICH):

H.R. 5718. A bill to provide that 8 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio):

H.R. 5719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to conform return preparer penalty standards, delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, enhance taxpayer protections, assist low-income taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SIRE, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio):

H.R. 5720. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide assistance for

housing; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. FALLIN):

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for a DSH redistribution pool from unexpended Medicaid DSH allotments in order to increase Medicaid DSH allotments for low DSH States and to provide grants for health access networks serving the uninsured; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. DRAKE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5722. A bill to mandate reporting requirements for convicted sex traffickers and other sex offenders intending to engage in international travel, to provide advance notice of convicted sex offenders who intend to travel outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, to prevent entry into the United States by any foreign sex offender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KANJORSKI:

H.R. 5723. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to allow Federal home loan banks to invest surplus funds in student loan securities and make advances for student loan financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself and Mr. BOEHNER) (both by request):

H.R. 5724. A bill to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

H.R. 5725. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employing members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 5726. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require prospective employers of H-1B nonimmigrants to participate in an educational, training, or mentorship program for United States workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 5727. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor to make grants for the establishment of information technology centers in rural areas; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POE, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 5728. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individual taxpayers to designate a portion of income taxes to fund the improvement of barriers at the United States border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLSWORTH:

H.R. 5729. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide comprehensive health care to children of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 5730. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to display in each prosthetic and orthotic clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs an Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 5731. A bill to prohibit offices of the legislative branch from entering into a contract for the provision of goods or services within the Capitol Complex with any contractor who does not participate in the basic pilot program for employment eligibility verification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 5732. A bill to establish procedures for the issuance by the Commissioner of Social Security of "no match" letters to employers, and for the notification of the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding such letters; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 5733. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Glacier National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Con. Res. 323. Concurrent resolution expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. KILDEE):

H. Con. Res. 324. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress relating to the trade promotion agreement between the United States and Colombia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 1082. A resolution recognizing the plumbing industry and supporting the goals and ideals of "National Plumbing Industry Week"; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (for herself and Mr. CASTLE):

H. Res. 1085. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H. Res. 1086. A resolution recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H. Res. 1087. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the North American Free Trade Agreement must be renegotiated to foster fair trade that truly benefits all the people of Canada, the United States and Mexico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TOWNS, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York):

H. Res. 1088. A resolution recognizing and commending the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California (for herself and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H. Res. 1089. A resolution calling on the government of Vietnam to release from prison, end the detention without trial, and cease the harassment and house arrest of the people who signed the Manifesto on Freedom and Democracy for Vietnam, and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should encourage Vietnam to release such people from prison and to direct the Secretary of State to establish a Countries of Particular Concern list to condemn countries like Vietnam, which engage in "particularly severe violations" of human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 1090. A resolution honoring the esteemed former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela on the occasion of his 90th birthday; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DREIER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOREN, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Res. 1091. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Charlton Heston and extending its deepest sympathies to the family of Charlton Heston for the loss of such a great generous man, husband, and father; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 245: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
 H.R. 281: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. WATSON, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. CARDOZA.
 H.R. 303: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 351: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 368: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
 H.R. 406: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SEXTON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
 H.R. 471: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 594: Mr. ALTMIRE.
 H.R. 643: Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 728: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 741: Mr. MARKEY and Mr. KELLER.
 H.R. 882: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. SHUSTER.
 H.R. 998: Mr. FILNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HARE, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 1017: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 1043: Mr. HONDA and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1050: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 1076: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LAHOOD.
 H.R. 1078: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 1102: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 1110: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 1222: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1223: Mr. CLAY and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1228: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 1264: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 1279: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 1280: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 1293: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
 H.R. 1295: Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 1306: Mr. PLATTS.
 H.R. 1343: Mr. FOSSELLA and Mr. SPACE.
 H.R. 1373: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1381: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 1418: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 1431: Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 1435: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 1440: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 1514: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 1590: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 1609: Mr. REGULA, Mr. BARROW, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. STARK, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, and Mr. POMEROY.
 H.R. 1619: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 1641: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 1646: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. INSLEE.
 H.R. 1667: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. SPACE.
 H.R. 1767: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1776: Mr. SHULER, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 1783: Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 1884: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. REGULA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1998: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 2014: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 2091: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KIND, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. KUHL of New York, and Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 2111: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 2138: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mrs. BONO MACK.
 H.R. 2140: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 2160: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.
 H.R. 2188: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 2312: Mr. FOSSELLA.
 H.R. 2332: Ms. GIFFORDS.
 H.R. 2343: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 2377: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
 H.R. 2564: Mr. ALEXANDER.
 H.R. 2567: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 2578: Mr. DICKS.
 H.R. 2580: Mr. GALLEGLY.
 H.R. 2593: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 2634: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 2676: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. HILL.
 H.R. 2694: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 2702: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 2708: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 2711: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 2744: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 2851: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. LOEBBACH.
 H.R. 2914: Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 2994: Mr. LATOURETTE.
 H.R. 3001: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 3042: Mr. EMANUEL.
 H.R. 3053: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 3109: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 3195: Mrs. DRAKE.
 H.R. 3212: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 3282: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 3289: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
 H.R. 3314: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3339: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 3369: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 3453: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TIERNEY, and Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 3457: Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 3463: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 3543: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 3618: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. SPACE.
 H.R. 3622: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
 H.R. 3634: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
 H.R. 3650: Mr. CARTER and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 3652: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 3658: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 3663: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 3692: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 3717: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 3797: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 3819: Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 3844: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 3934: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3968: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 3981: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ROSS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. GORDON.
 H.R. 4044: Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 4088: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 4089: Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 4105: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. WAMP.
 H.R. 4138: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4206: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. BACA.
 H.R. 4246: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
 H.R. 4304: Mr. GINGREY.
 H.R. 4310: Mr. DELAHUNT.
 H.R. 4318: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
 H.R. 4453: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 4458: Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 4544: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 4545: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 4574: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
 H.R. 4627: Mr. MCHUGH.
 H.R. 4836: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4838: Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 4883: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. REYES, Mr. ORTIZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4884: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. REYES, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. ORTIZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4915: Mr. CHABOT and Mrs. LOWEY.
 H.R. 4930: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 4995: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
 H.R. 5031: Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H.R. 5058: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 5069: Mr. HILL.
 H.R. 5106: Mr. HONDA and Mr. FORTUÑO.
 H.R. 5110: Mr. HARE and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 5131: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. NUNES.
 H.R. 5143: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 5152: Mr. FOSSELLA.
 H.R. 5160: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 5161: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 5175: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
 H.R. 5233: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 5244: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 5265: Mr. KIRK, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 5268: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 5315: Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 5443: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 5446: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 5447: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 5469: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5474: Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 5481: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 5490: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 5505: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 5522: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 5532: Mr. WAMP and Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 5534: Ms. LEE, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 5541: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GILCHREST, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 5544: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 5545: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 5546: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H.R. 5561: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mrs. BONO MACK.

H.R. 5569: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 5573: Ms. WATSON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FILNER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HARE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. INSLER.

H.R. 5586: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 5602: Mr. STARK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. DeLauro, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. BOYD of Florida, and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5606: Mr. GORDON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 5611: Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 5613: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PASCARELL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. HOOLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GERLACH, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Ms. GIFFORDS.

H.R. 5624: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 5629: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. MCCARTHY of California.

H.R. 5635: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 5638: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H.R. 5641: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 5654: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 5666: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 5668: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 5670: Mr. PAUL and Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 5672: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 5674: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 5678: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.

H.R. 5681: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 5684: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5690: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5713: Mr. BUYER.

H. Con. Res. 194: Mr. CROWLEY.

H. Con. Res. 257: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H. Con. Res. 295: Mr. HENSARLING.

H. Con. Res. 315: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. LINDER, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. BOOZMAN.

H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Con. Res. 318: Ms. LEE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Con. Res. 320: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Con. Res. 321: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 265: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 652: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 820: Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 834: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H. Res. 838: Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LATTI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. STUPAK.

H. Res. 865: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 888: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 925: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 977: Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H. Res. 981: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. HOOLEY.

H. Res. 987: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. HODES, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 1008: Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H. Res. 1019: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 1020: Mr. PASTOR and Mr. POE.

H. Res. 1022: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. WYNN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 1026: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. MICA.

H. Res. 1029: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CLAY, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H. Res. 1030: Mr. POE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. PENCE, Mr. REGULA, and Mr. BUYER.

H. Res. 1048: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.

H. Res. 1053: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H. Res. 1063: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 1069: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. POE, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. FORTUÑO.

H. Res. 1070: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

H. Res. 1072: Ms. GIFFORDS.

H. Res. 1075: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 1077: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. LEE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. WOLF, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BOOZMAN.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

The amendment to be offered by Ms. Johnson of Texas, or her designee, to H.R. 2537 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

The amendment to be offered by Representative Grijalva or a designee to H.R. 2016 the National Landscape Conservation System, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2537

OFFERED BY: MR. BILBRAY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 11. USE OF MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSING COASTAL RECREATION WATERS.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct a study to assess the benefits of using molecular diagnostics for monitoring and assessing the quality of coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches and similar points of access that are used by the public.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Administrator shall—

(1) to the extent practicable, evaluate the full range of available rapid indicator technologies and methods that meet prescribed performance standards, including—

(A) the amplified nucleic acid assay method; and

(B) the indicator organism enterococci; and

(2) compare the use of molecular diagnostics to culture testing of same source

water, including the time for obtaining results, accuracy of results, and future applicability.

(c) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator may award a grant or cooperative agreement to a public or private organization to assist the Administrator in carrying out the study.

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

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OFFERED BY: MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 2, line 5, strike “2007” and insert “2008”.

Page 2, line 8, strike “1346” and insert “1346(b)”.

Page 4, line 1, strike “304(a)(9)” and insert “304(a)(9)(A)”.

Page 4, line 2, strike “1314(a)(9)” and insert “1314(a)(9)(A)”.

Page 4, strike lines 4 through 16 and insert the following:

(c) **VALIDATION AND USE OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.**—

(1) **VALIDATION OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.**—Not later than October 1, 2010, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall complete an evaluation and

validation of a rapid testing method for the water quality criteria and standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators described in section 303(i)(1)(A).

(2) **GUIDANCE FOR USE OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after completion of the validation under paragraph (1), and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Administrator shall publish guidance for the use at coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by the public of rapid testing methods that will enhance the protection of public health and safety through rapid public notification of any exceeding of applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

(B) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In developing such guidance, the Administrator shall prioritize the use of rapid testing methods at those beaches or similar points of access that are the most used by the public.

Page 6, strike lines 13 through 19 and insert the following:

“(9) the availability of a geographic information system database that such State or local government program shall use to inform the public about coastal recreation waters and that—

“(A) is publicly accessible and searchable on the Internet;

“(B) is organized by beach or similar point of access;

“(C) identifies applicable water quality standards, monitoring protocols, sampling plans and results, and the number and cause of coastal recreation water closures and advisory days; and

“(D) is updated within 24 hours of the availability of revised information;

Page 7, line 6, strike “meeting” and insert “meeting or are not expected to meet”.

Page 8, line 8, strike “on” and insert “on the Internet on”.

Page 8, strike lines 10 through 24 and insert the following:

“(3) **CORRECTIVE ACTION.**—If a State or local government that the Administrator notifies under paragraph (2) is not in compliance with any requirement or grant condition described in paragraph (2) fails to take such action as may be necessary to comply with such requirement or condition within one year of the date of notification, any grants made under subsection (b) to the State or local government, after the last day of such one-year period and while the State or local government is not in compliance with all requirements and grant conditions described in paragraph (2), shall have a Federal share of not to exceed 50 percent.”

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 11. ADOPTION OF NEW OR REVISED CRITERIA AND STANDARDS.

Section 303(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(i)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “paragraph (1)(A)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (1)”.